

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 70

16p



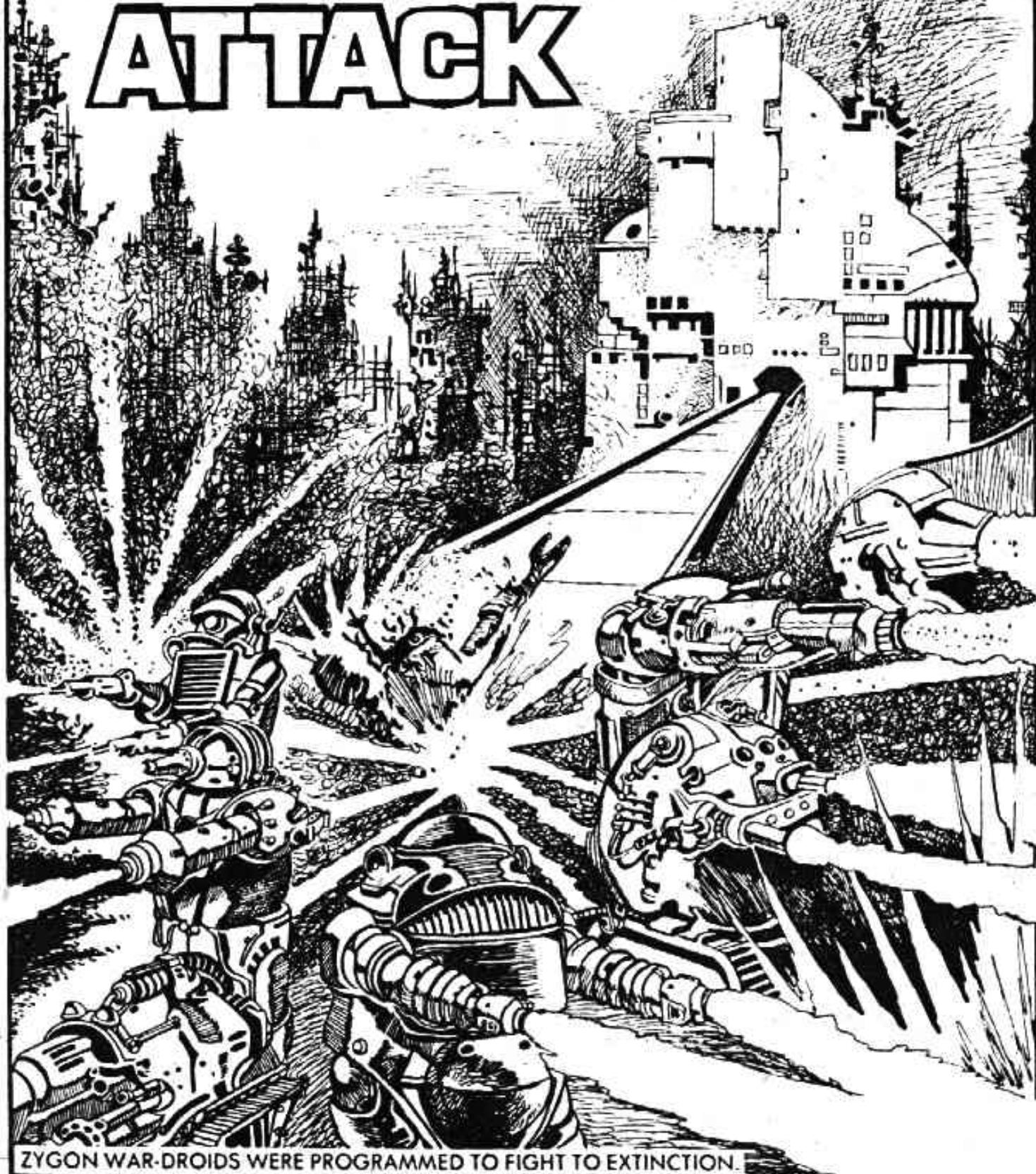
SPACETROOPER ATTACK

STARBLAZER



ALTHOUGH THE WAR BETWEEN THE EARTH FEDERATION AND THE ZYGON EMPIRE WAS NEAR ITS END, THE FINAL OFFENSIVE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN. ON THE LAST OF THE FREED SLAVE PLANETS EARTH GROUND TROOPS WERE BATTLING WITH ZYGON WAR-DROIDS—AND LOSING. THERE WAS ONLY ONE ANSWER—TO CALL IN THE SOLDIERS WHO ALWAYS GOT THE DIRTY JOBS, THE SUICIDE RAIDS AND NO RECOGNITION. WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS A...

SPACETROOPER ATTACK



ZYGON WAR-DROIDS WERE PROGRAMMED TO FIGHT TO EXTINCTION.

ARMoured TROOP CARRIERS RACED INTO THE HEART OF THE BATTLE.

GET THOSE
HATCHES OPEN!



VAPE THE ZYGON!

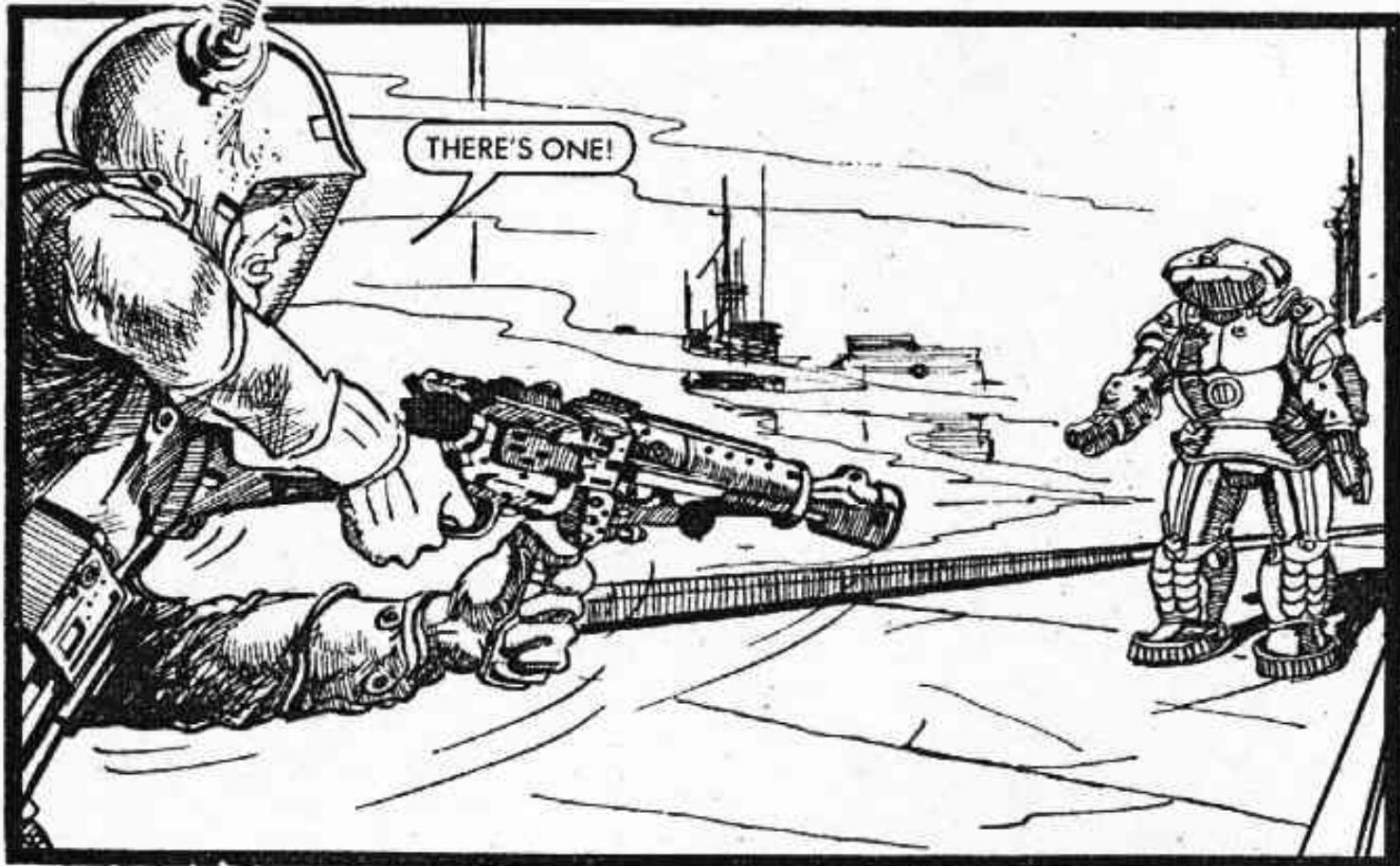


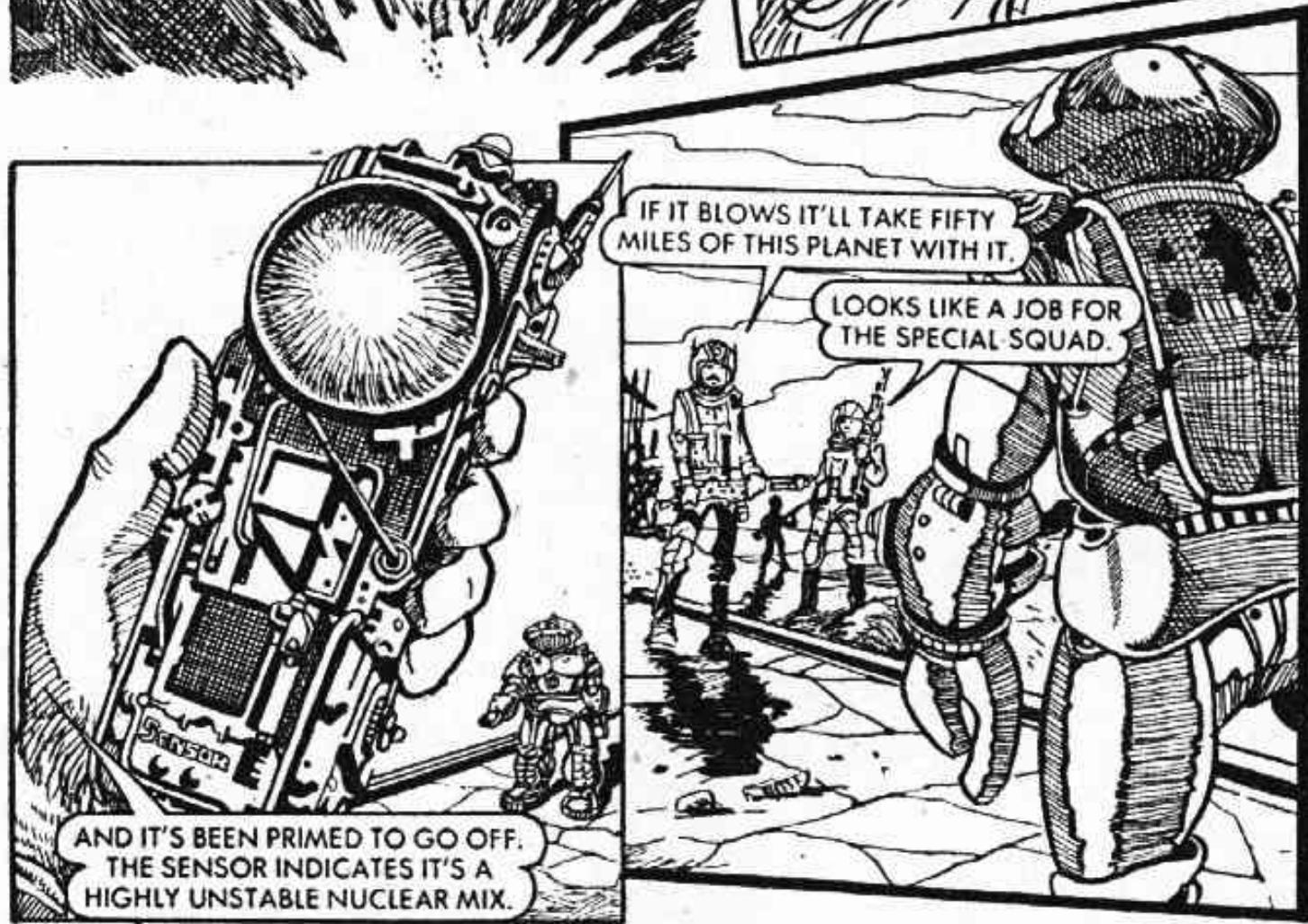
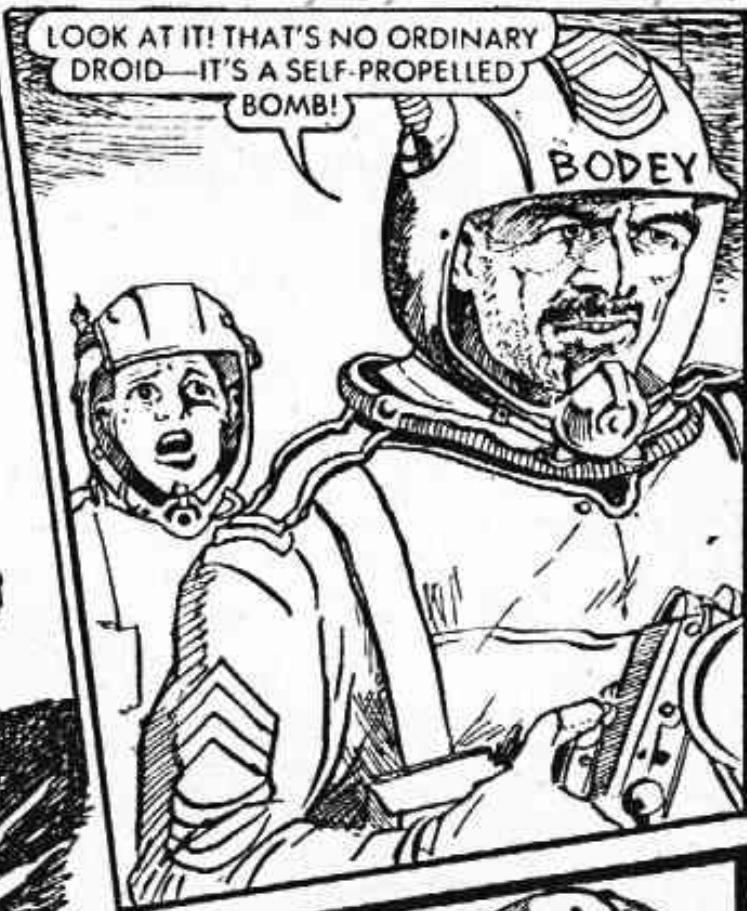
THE EARTH HIT SQUAD STRUCK QUICKLY... AND DEVASTATINGLY



THAT'S THE LAST ONE. MOVE OUT TO THE BRIDGE.

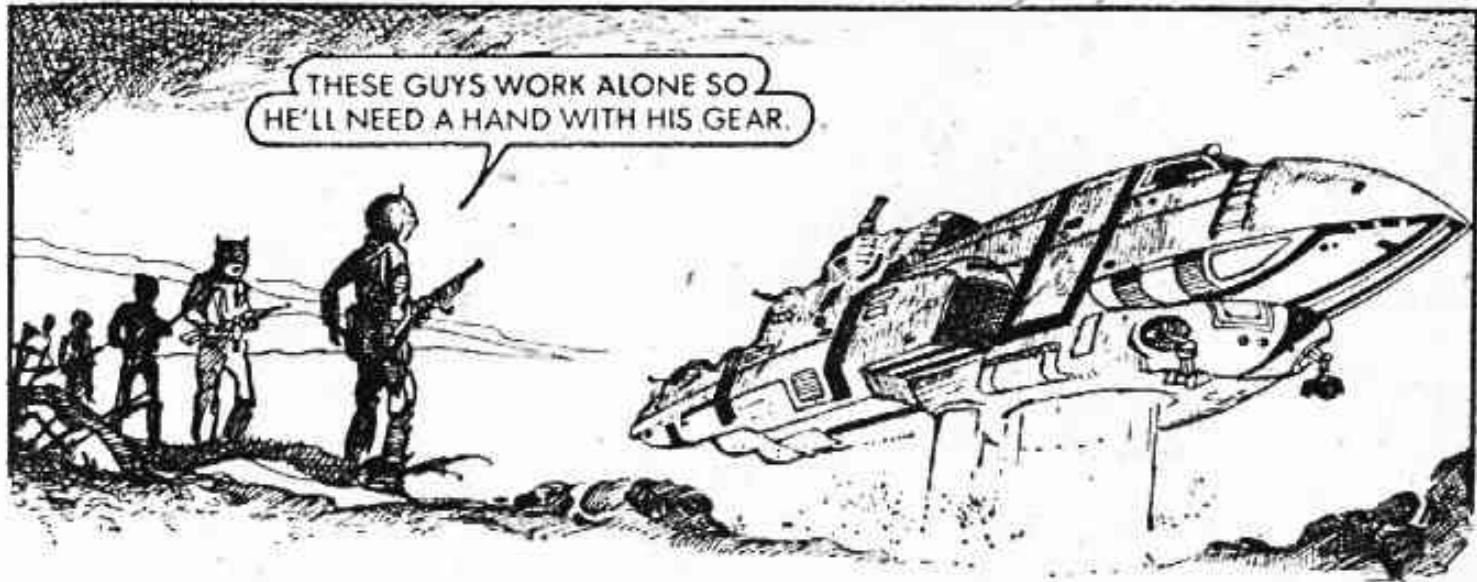








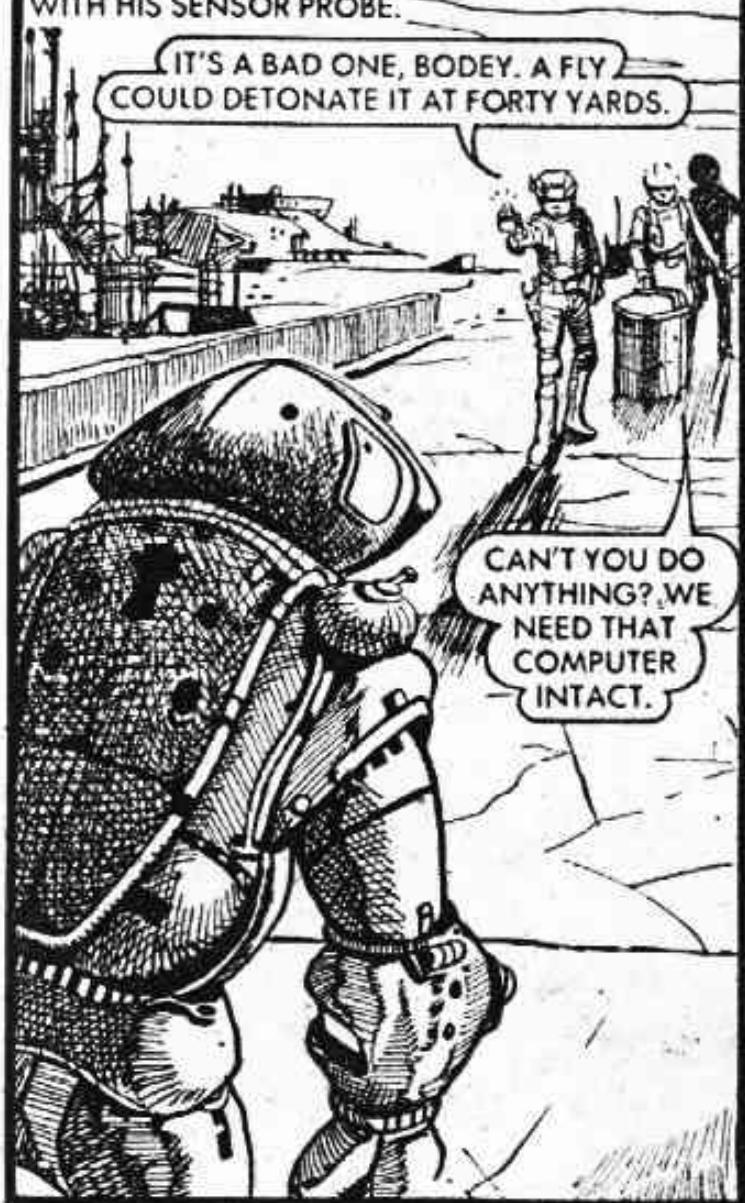
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THESE GUYS WORK ALONE SO
HE'LL NEED A HAND WITH HIS GEAR.



STONE SCANNED THE DROID
WITH HIS SENSOR PROBE.

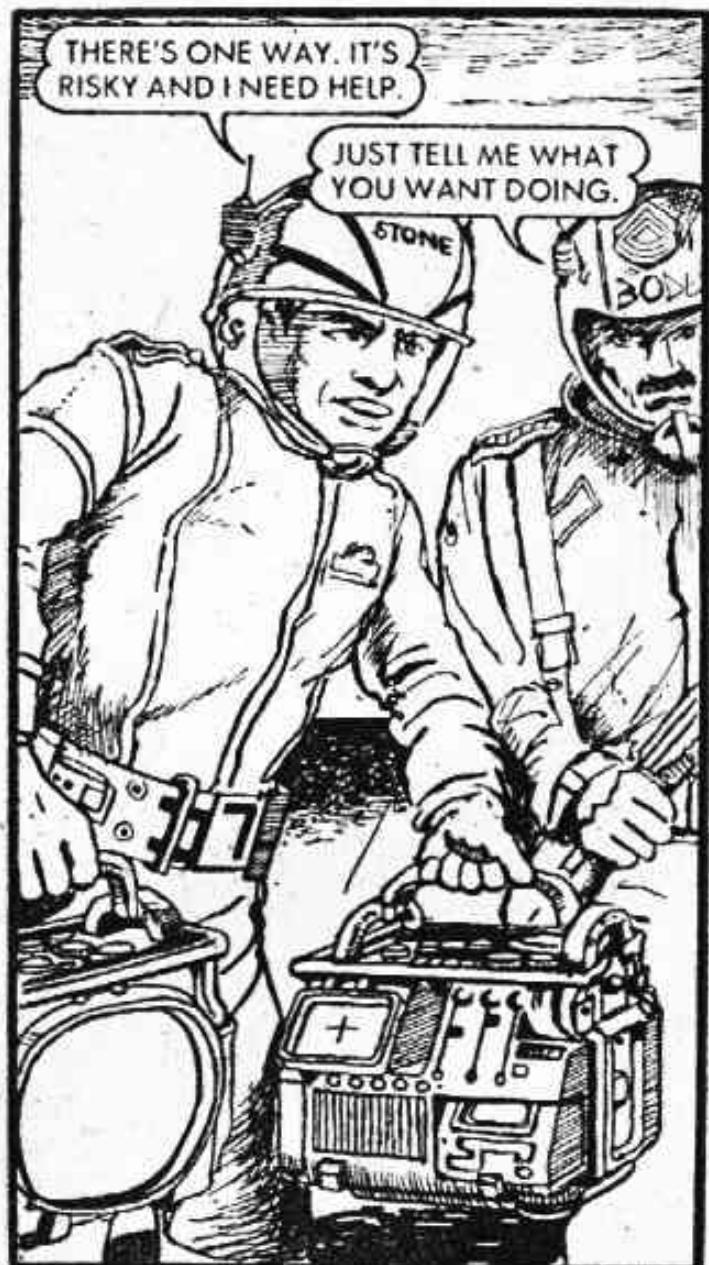
IT'S A BAD ONE, BODEY. A FLY
COULD DETONATE IT AT FORTY YARDS.

CAN'T YOU DO
ANYTHING? WE
NEED THAT
COMPUTER
INTACT.



THERE'S ONE WAY. IT'S
RISKY AND I NEED HELP.

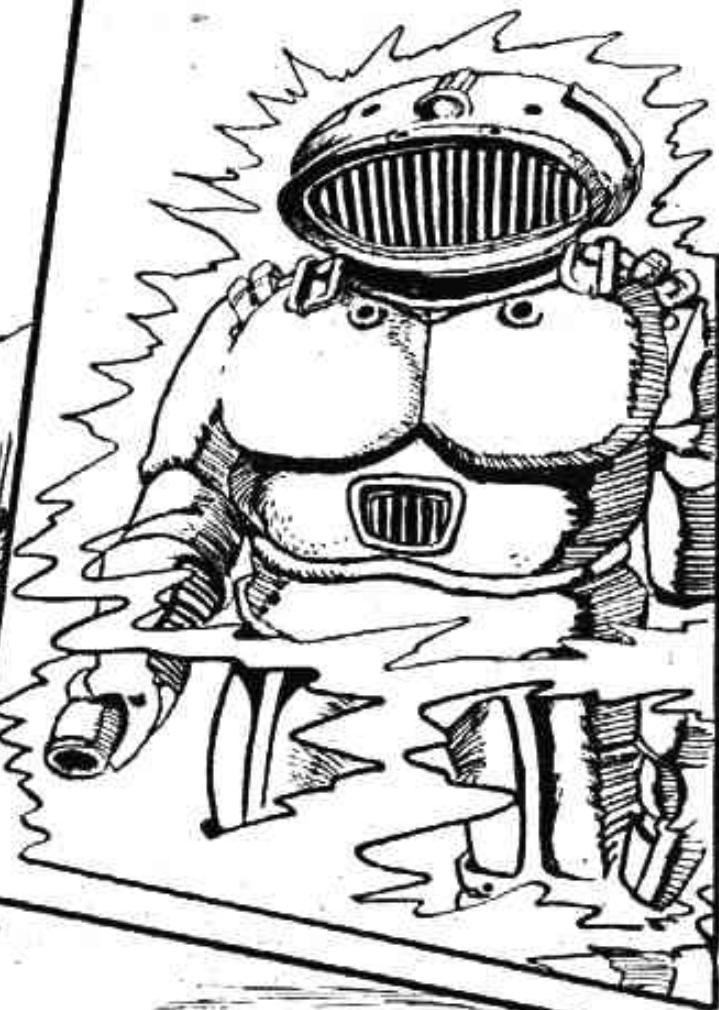
JUST TELL ME WHAT
YOU WANT DOING.





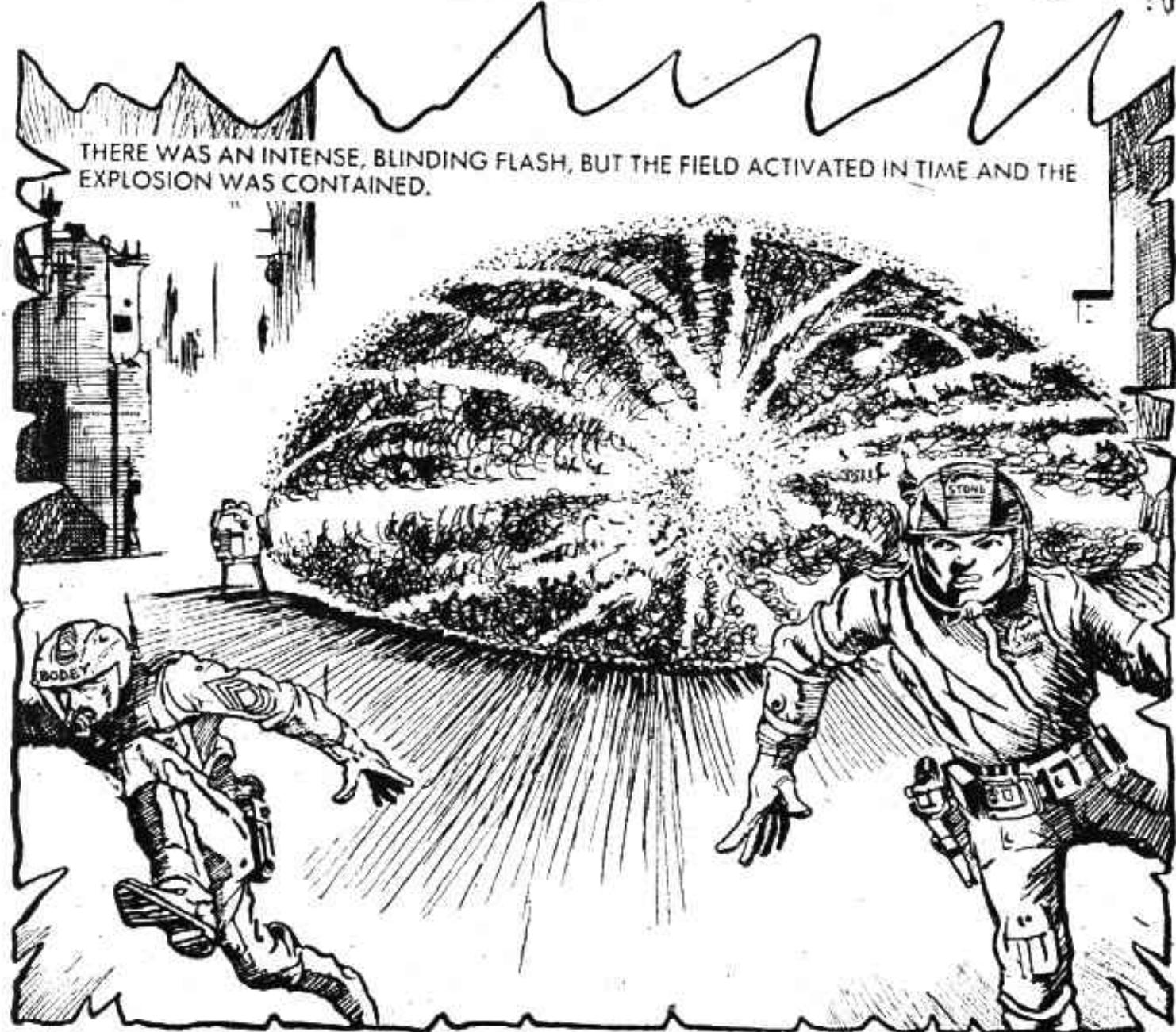
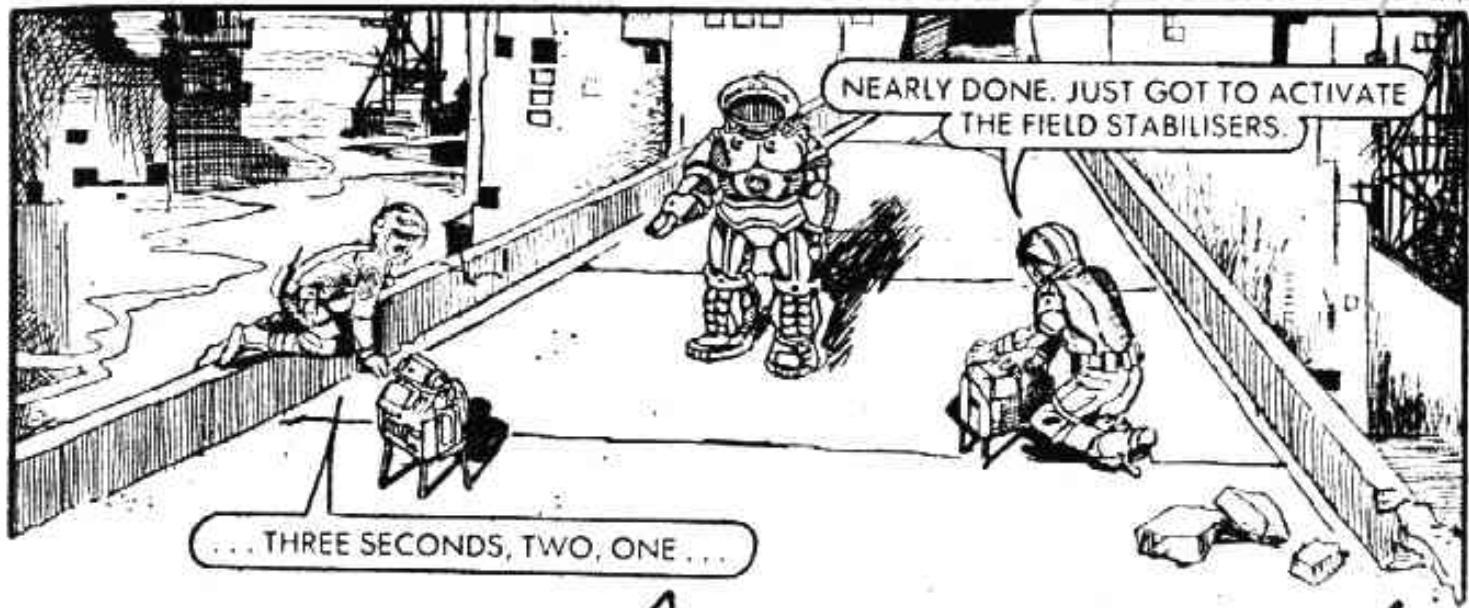
THIS IS AN ATOMIC FREEZER. IT'LL IMMOBILISE THE DROID FOR FIFTEEN SECONDS—AND THEN IT'LL DETONATE. IF WE CAN SET UP THOSE TWO-FORCE-FIELD PROJECTORS IN TIME WE CAN CONTAIN THE EXPLOSION WITHIN THEM.

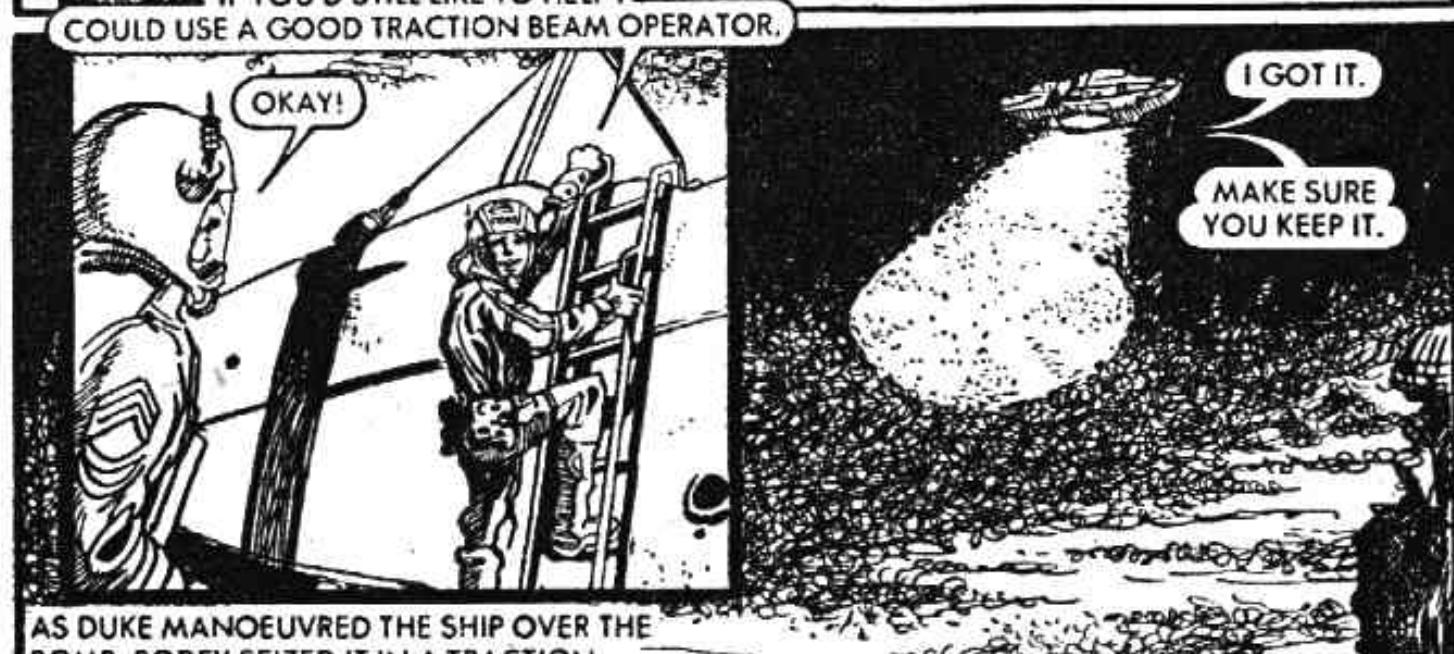
THE BEAM TEMPORARILY NEUTRALISED ALL THE DROID'S CIRCUITS.



RUN! WE'VE GOT FIFTEEN SECONDS TO ALIGN THESE PROJECTORS. THEY MUST BE EXACTLY OPPOSITE EACH OTHER OR THE EXPLOSION WILL ESCAPE.





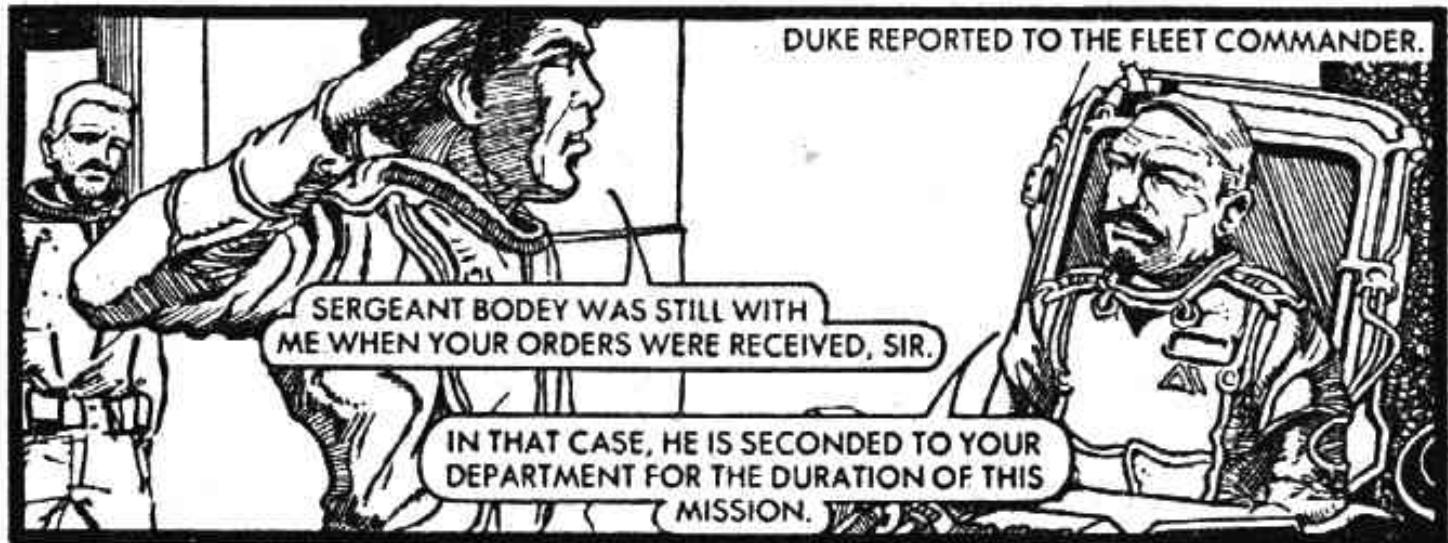


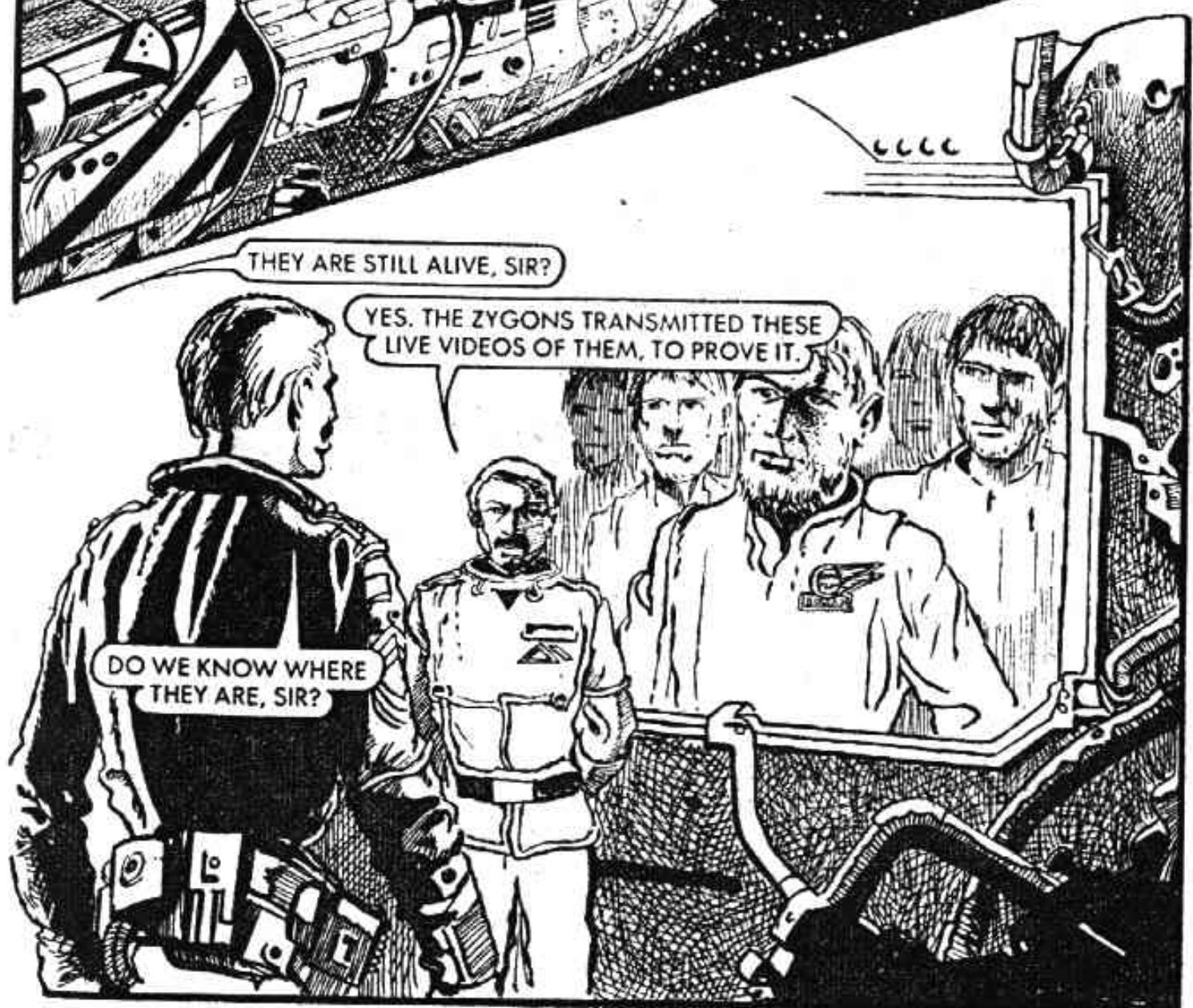
AS DUKE MANOEUVRED THE SHIP OVER THE BOMB, BODEY SEIZED IT IN A TRACTION BEAM...



AN HOUR LATER THE EXPLOSION WAS RELEASED IN THE SAFETY OF SPACE.







YES! WE NOTICED ONE OF THE HOSTAGES WAS WEARING HIS INSIGNIA UPSIDE DOWN—SO WE ENLARGED IT. HE'D WRITTEN 'SCARO MOON' ON IT. SCARO IS A TEN THOUSAND GRAVITY PLANET IN THE ZYGON SYSTEM. IT HAS A RING AND ONE VERY SMALL MOON.

SCARO
MOON

KYB0R

THAT MOON HAS BEEN MOVED OUT OF ORBIT AND PLACED INSIDE THE ROCKS OF THE PLANET SCARO'S RING. WE SENT A PROBE TO INVESTIGATE AND FOUND IT GUARDED BY A SQUADRON OF ZYGON SHIPS.

THEY'VE GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE JUST TO GUARD A FEW HUNDRED HOSTAGES.

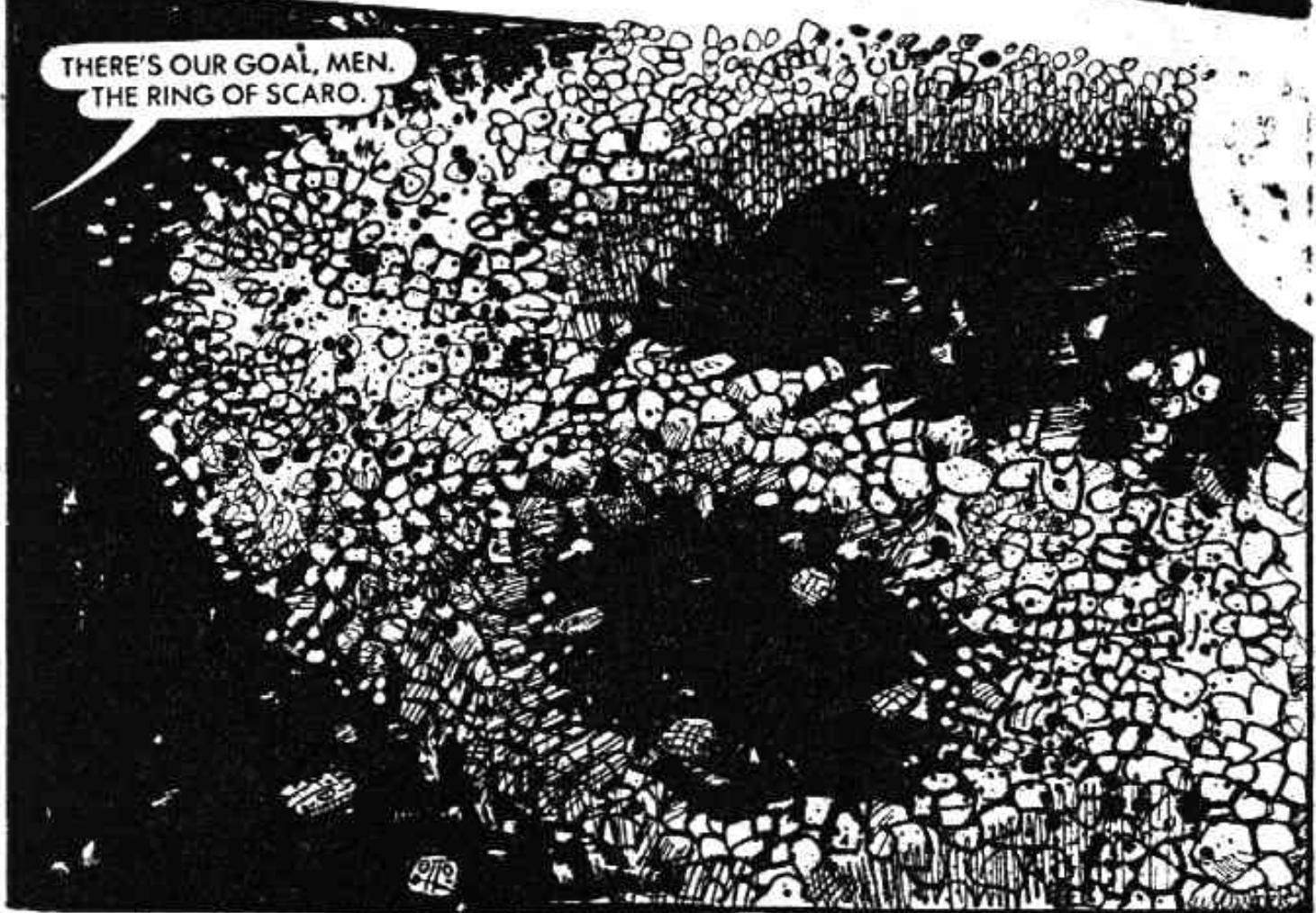
THAT'S WHAT WE THINK. YOUR TASK IS TO GET IN THERE, RESCUE THE HOSTAGES AND FIND OUT WHAT ELSE THE ZYGONS ARE UP TO. THE PLACE WILL CERTAINLY BE NUCLEAR BOOBY-TRAPPED.

THE TROOPSHIP BLURRED FOR THE ZYON SYSTEM—

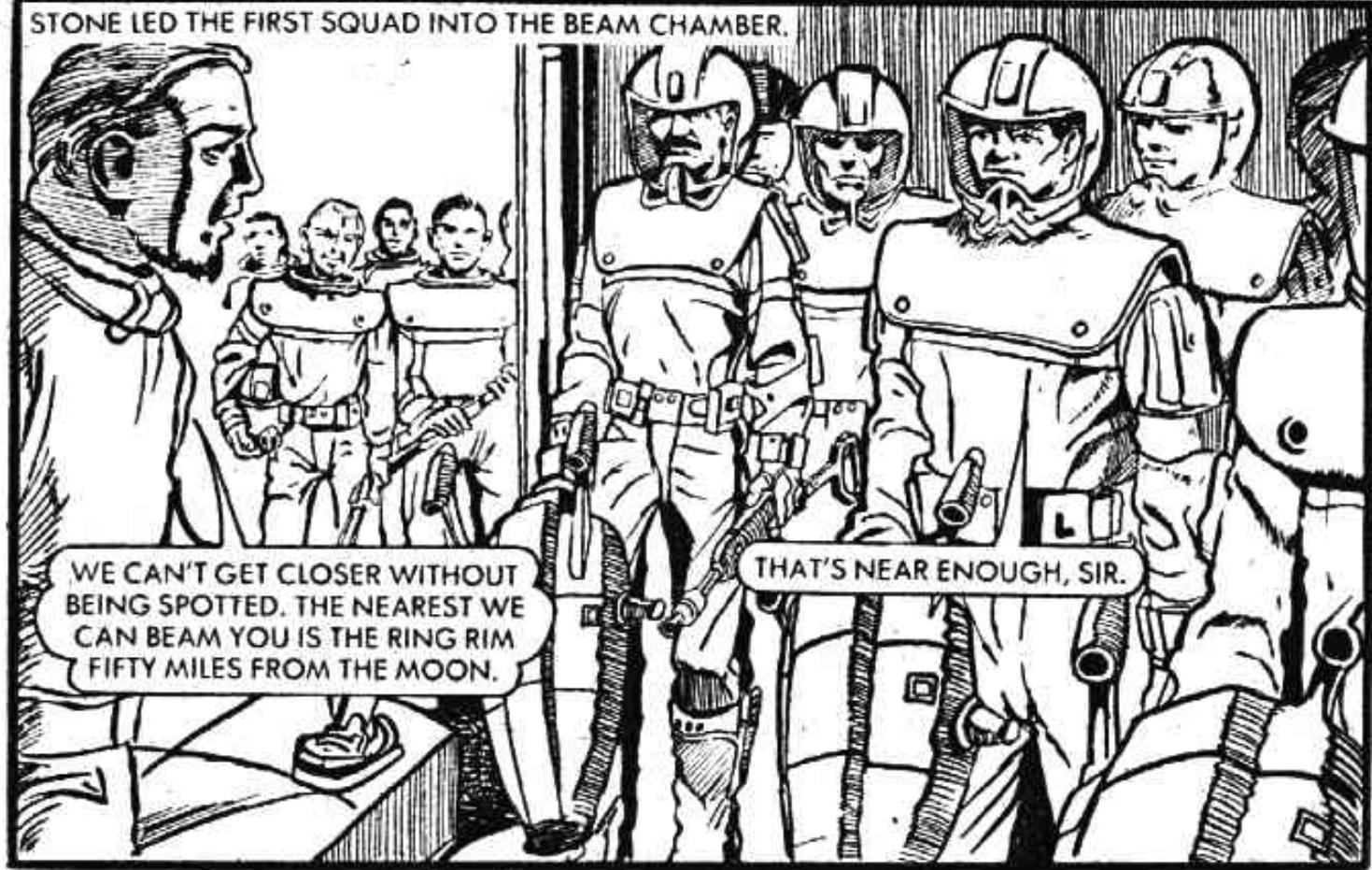
WE'RE GOING AS CLOSE AS WE CAN
UNDER COVER OF OUR SENSOR
DEFLECTORS. THEN WE'LL BEAM ONE
SQUAD OF MEN AT MAXIMUM
RANGE ONTO THE RING.



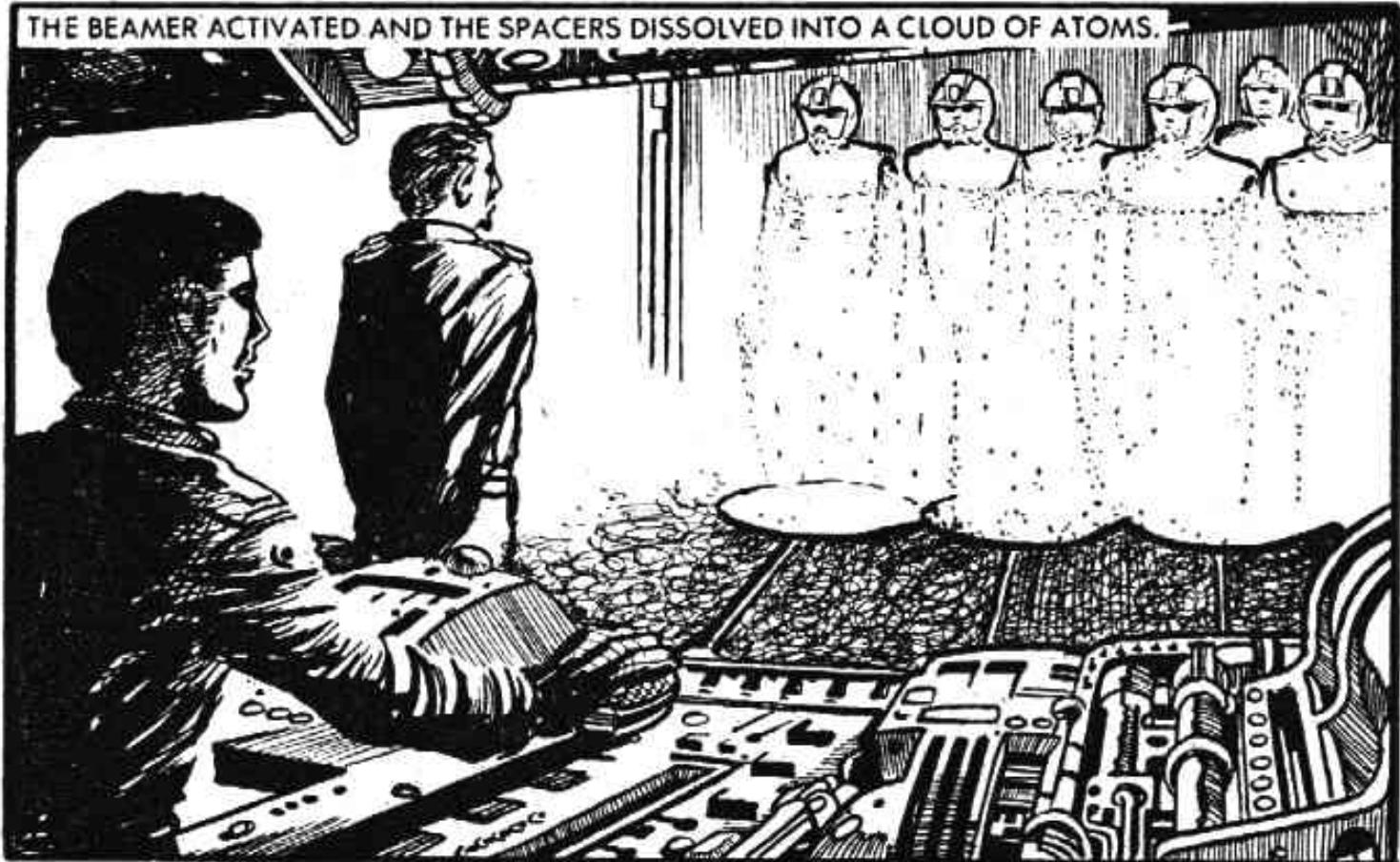
THERE'S OUR GOAL, MEN.
THE RING OF SCARO.



STONE LED THE FIRST SQUAD INTO THE BEAM CHAMBER.



THE BEAMER ACTIVATED AND THE SPACERS DISSOLVED INTO A CLOUD OF ATOMS.



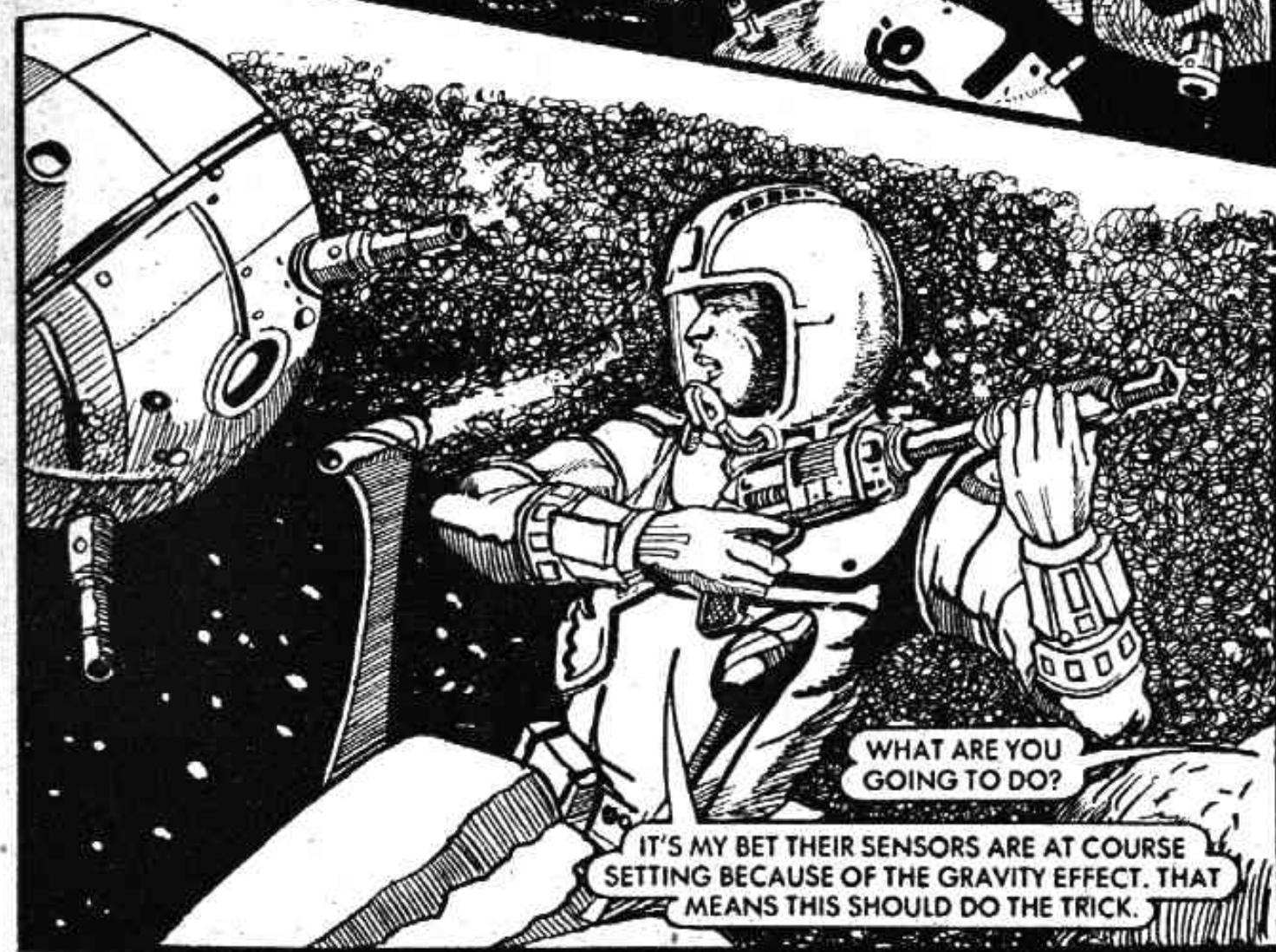
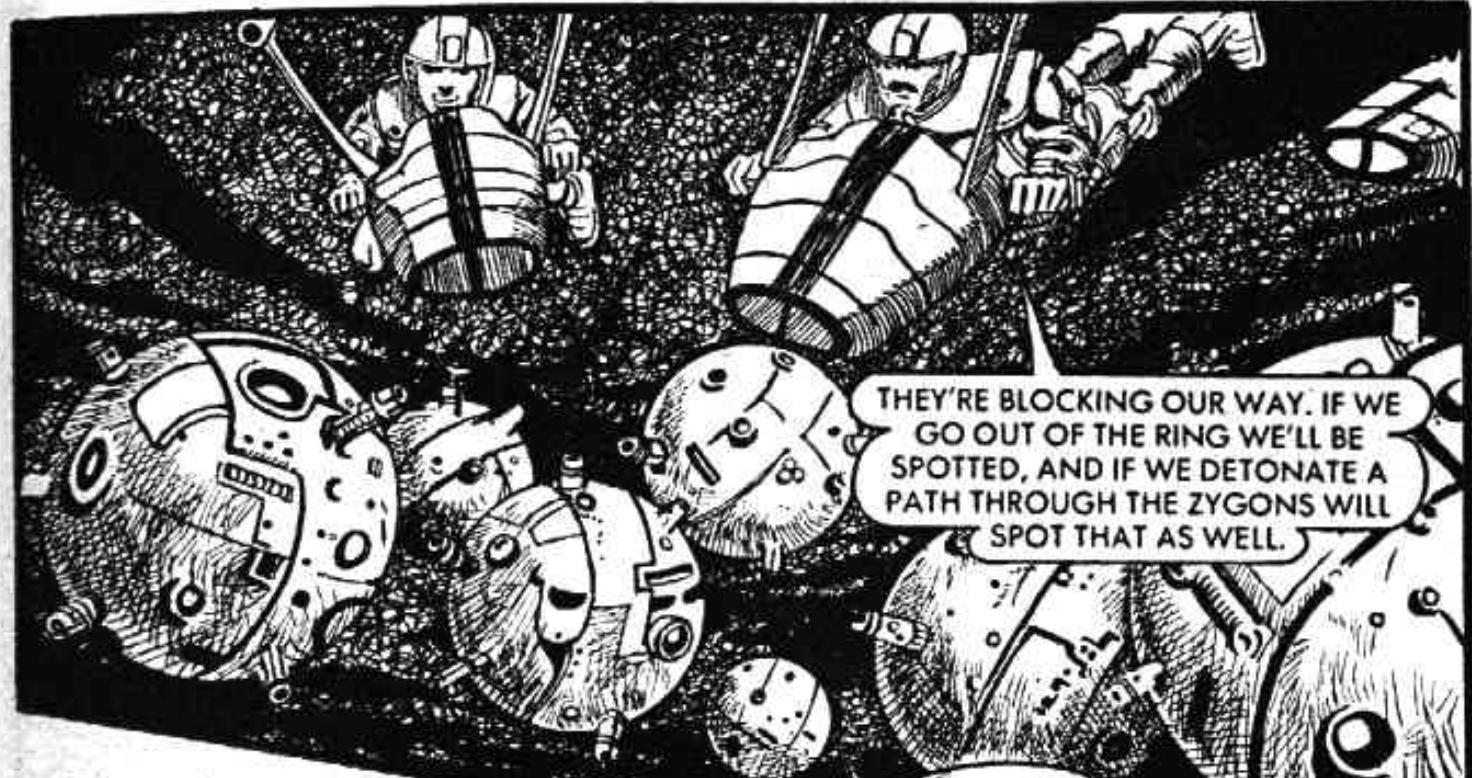
THEY MATERIALISED INSIDE THE RING OF SCARO, BUT SOME WERE TOO CLOSE TO THE ROCKS.

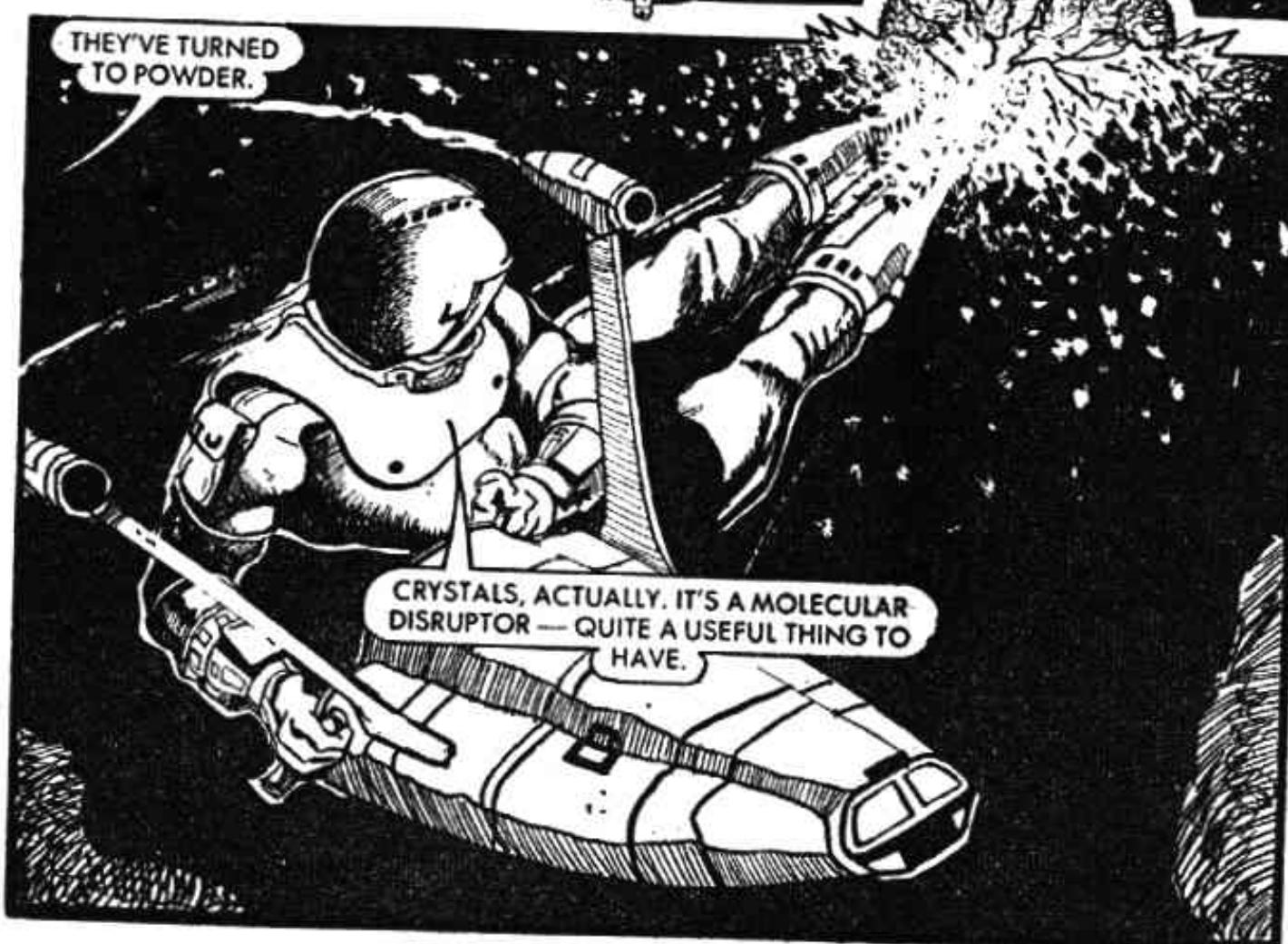
IT'S GONE
ALL WRONG.

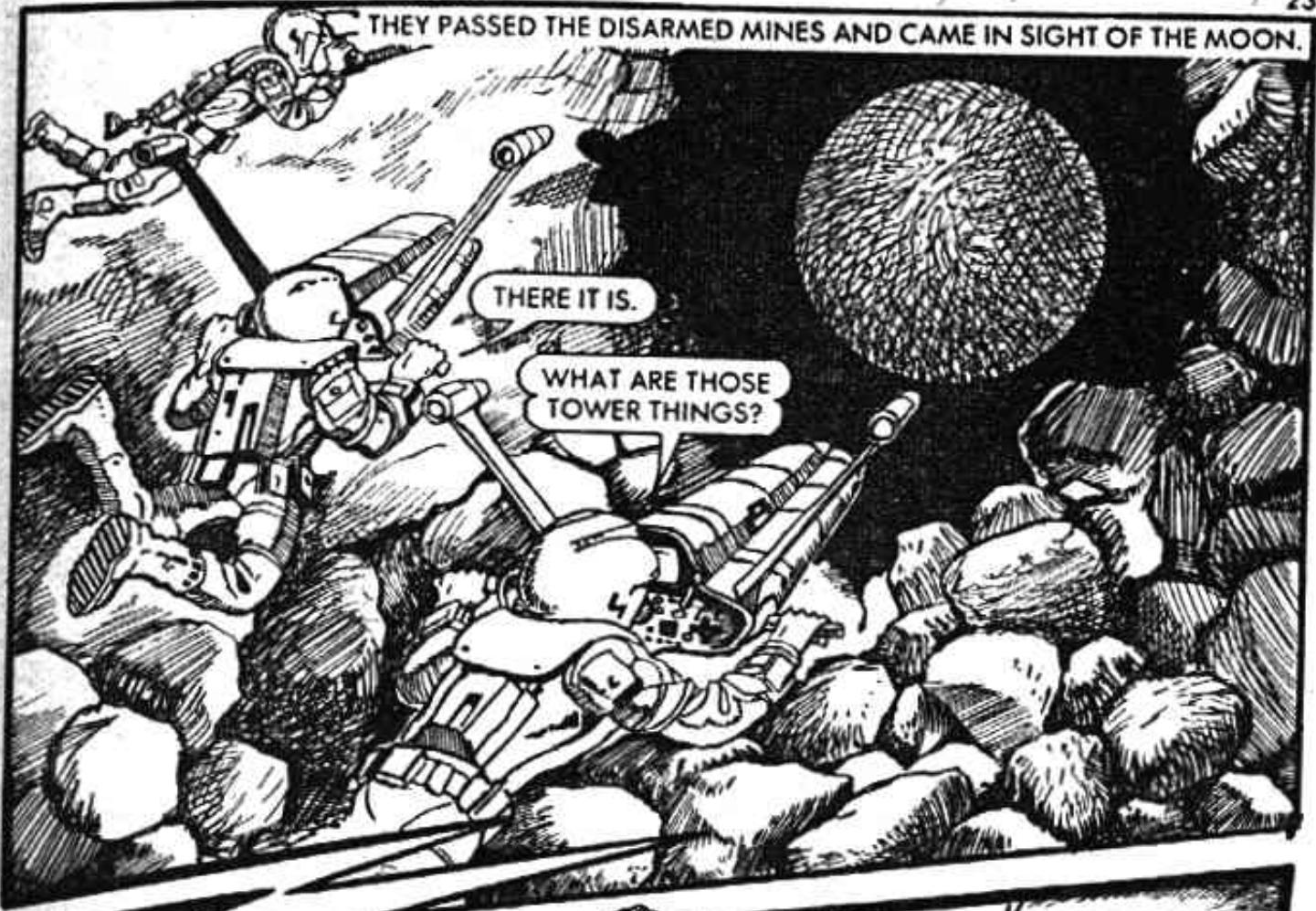


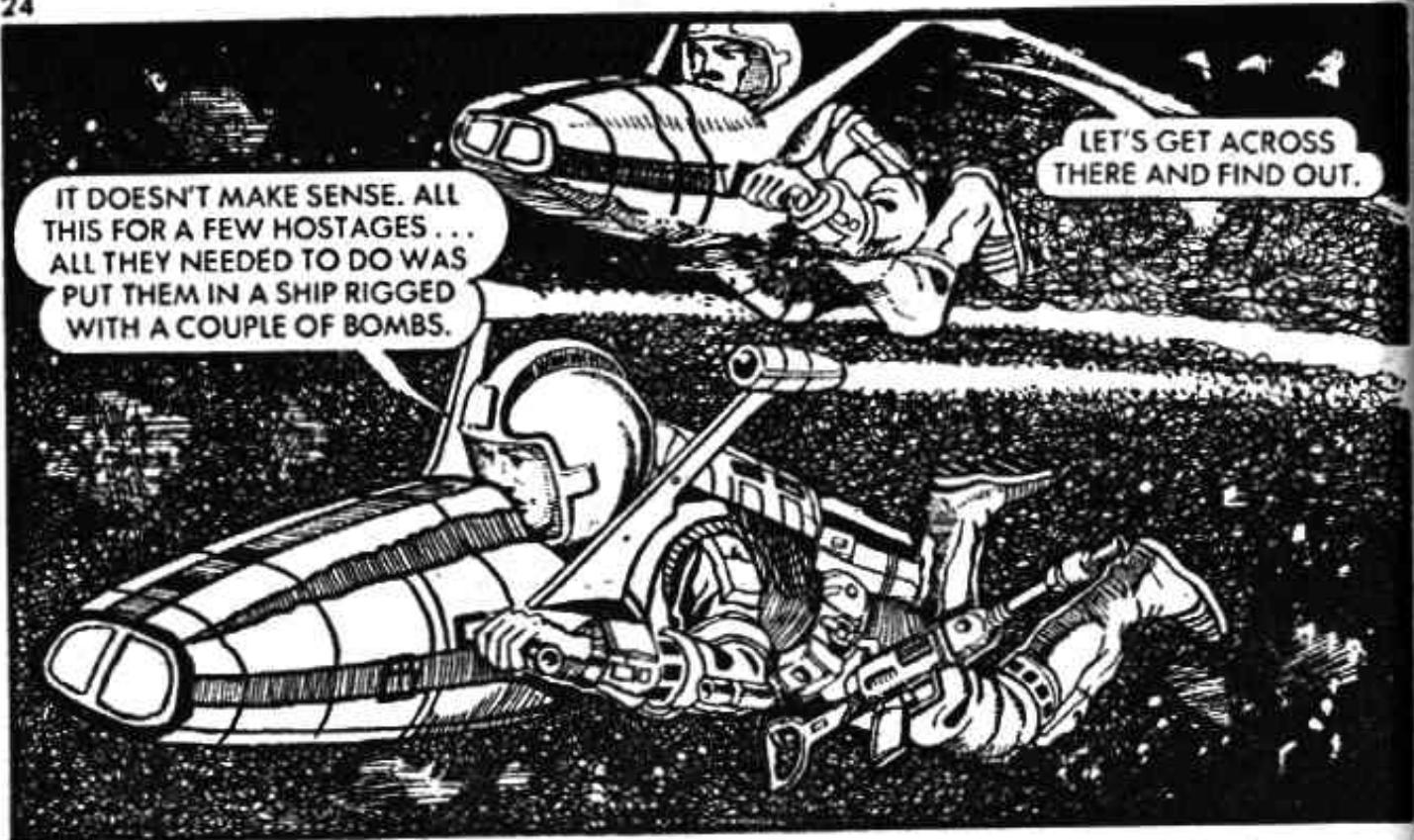
COMMANDER — STOP THE BEAMING! THE PLANET'S GRAVITY IS DEFLECTING THE BEAMER. WE'LL HAVE TO GO IT ALONE, YOU'LL KILL ANY MORE MEN YOU SEND.











THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD KEEP THREE HUNDRED PRISONERS IN THOSE SMALL BUILDINGS.

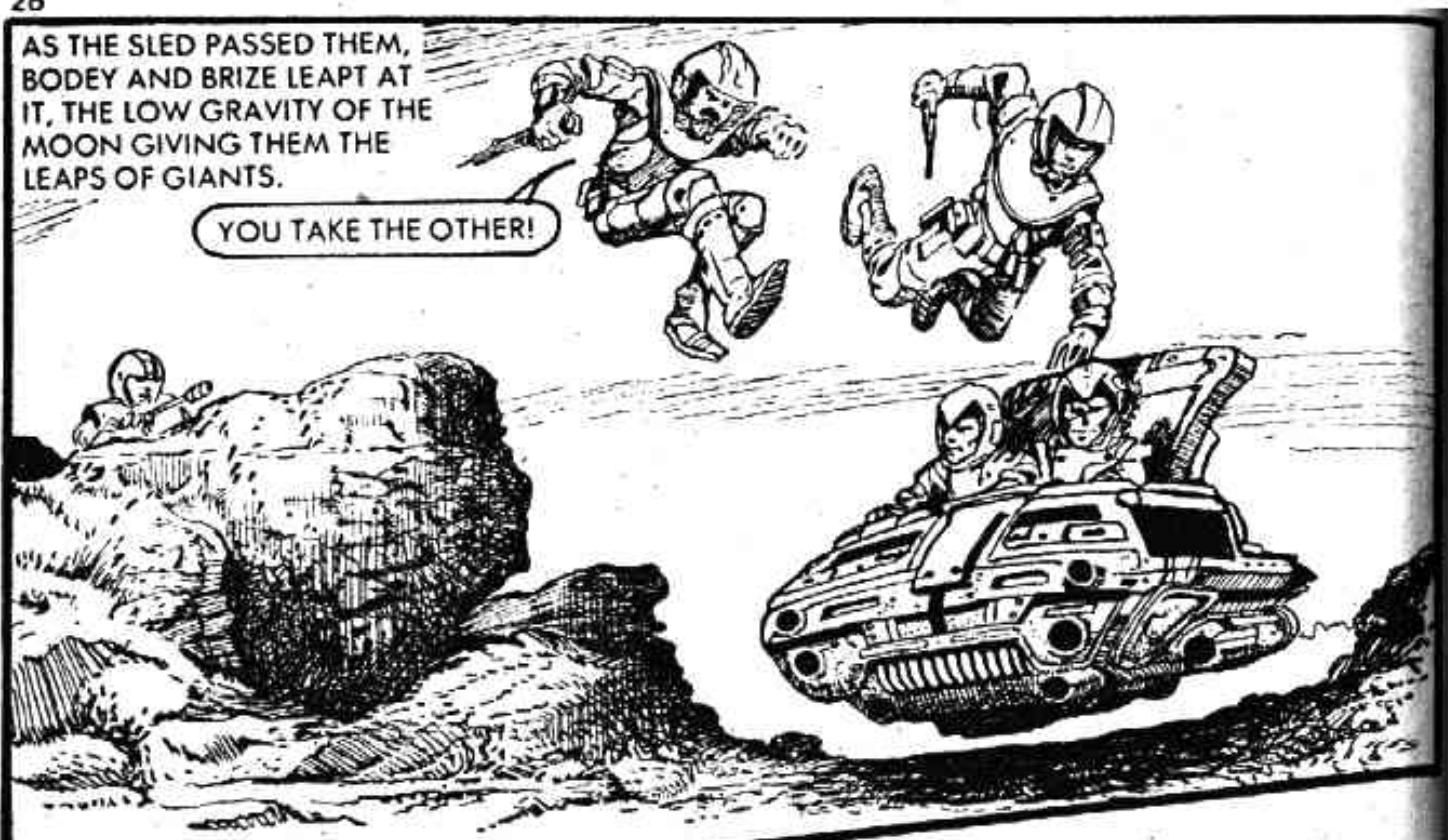
YOU'RE RIGHT, BRIZE. THEY'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE ON THIS ROCK. MY BET IS THEY'RE UNDERGROUND.

A ZYGN PATROL APPEARED.

TAKE COVER.
WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

AS THE SLED PASSED THEM, BODEY AND BRIZE LEAPED AT IT, THE LOW GRAVITY OF THE MOON GIVING THEM THE LEAPS OF GIANTS.

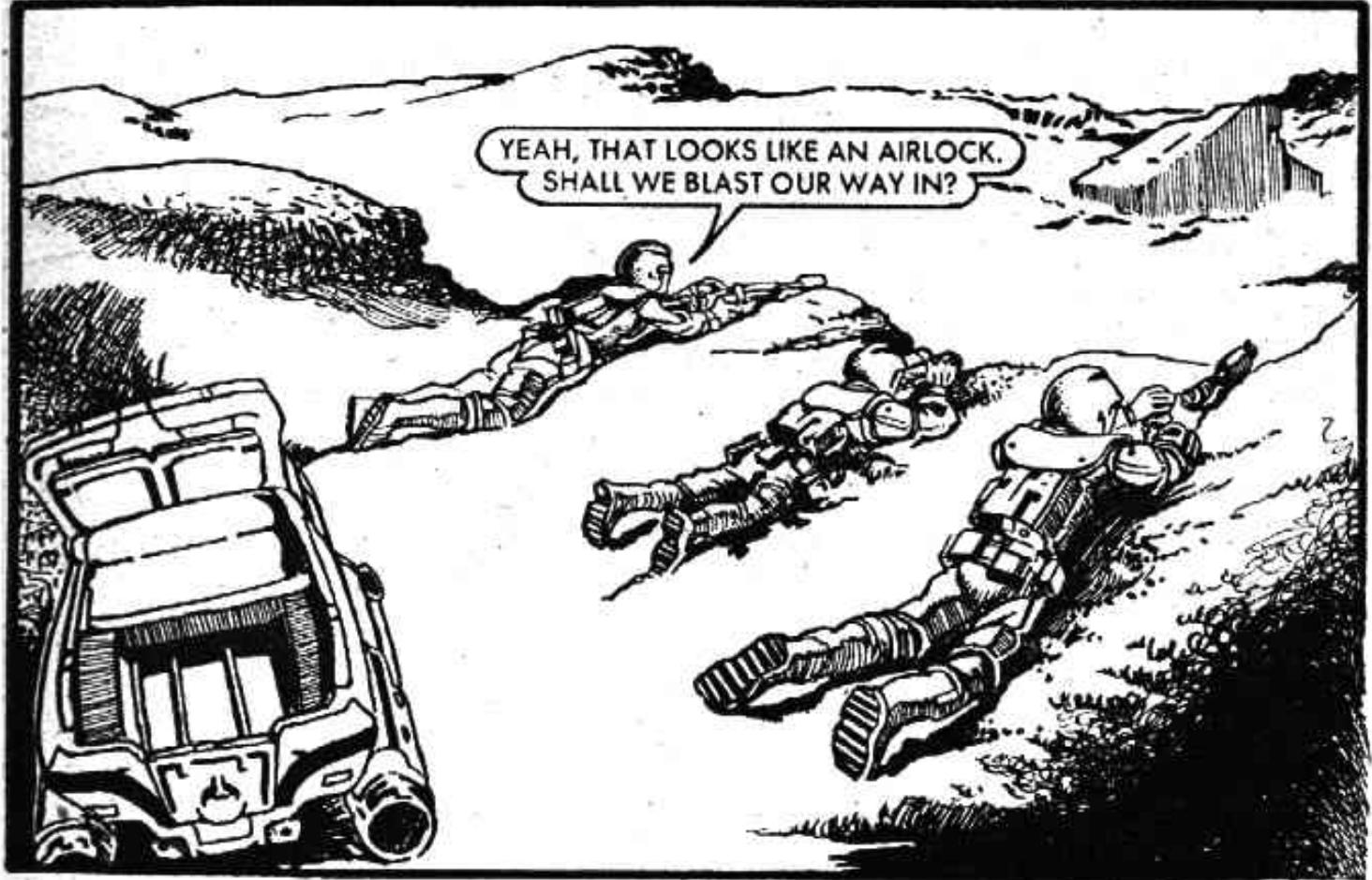
YOU TAKE THE OTHER!



THE ZYGONS WERE SILENTLY DEALT WITH —

THEY CAME FROM THAT DIRECTION! LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT'S OVER THERE.

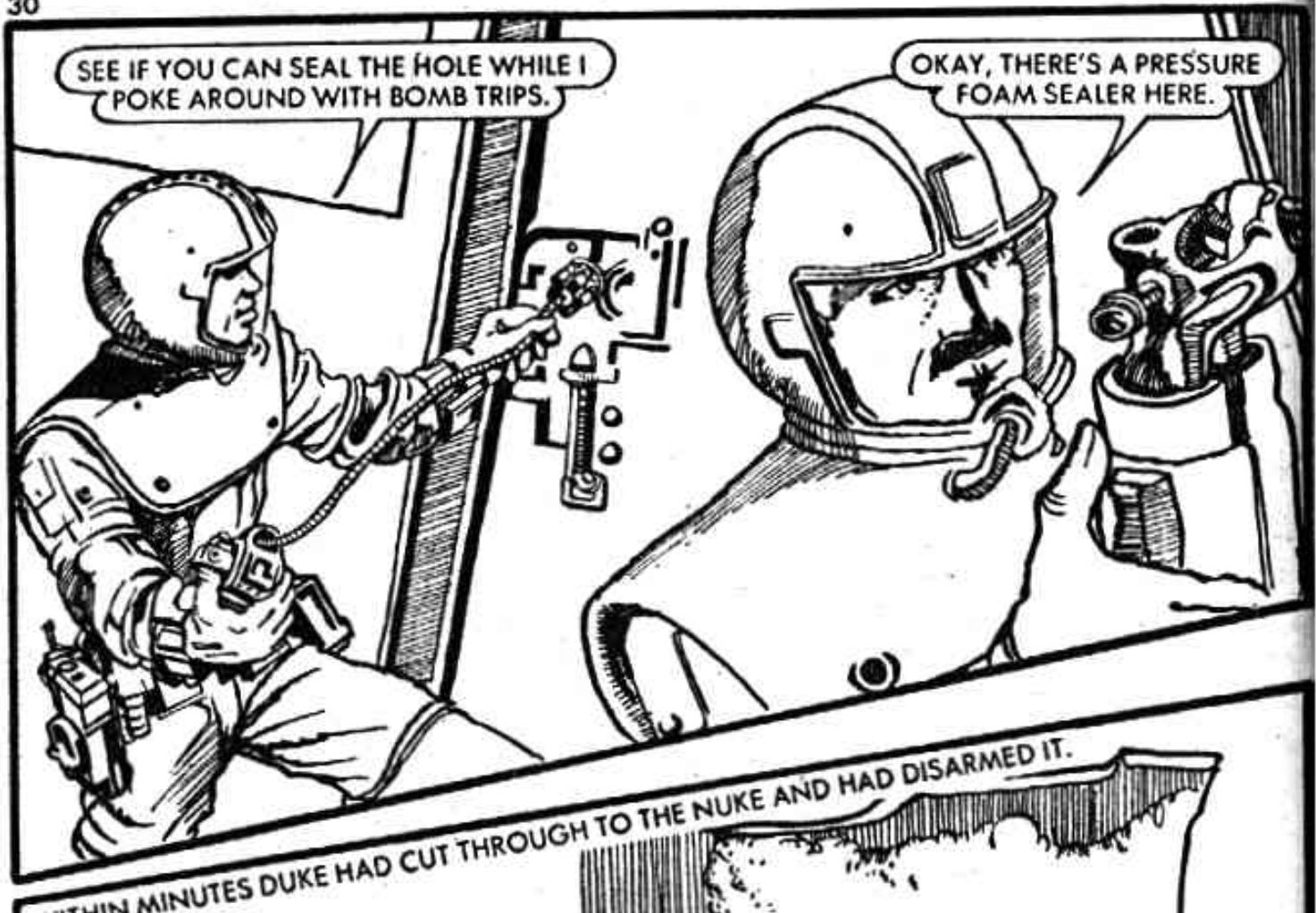






THE DISRUPTOR CRUSHED THROUGH THE BUILDING SUCKING THE ZYGONS TO INSTANT DEATH.









THE TWO SPACERS MOUNTED THE JET-SLED AND SEARCHED ACROSS THE MOON UNTIL AT LAST THEY CAME TO AN ISOLATED BUILDING.

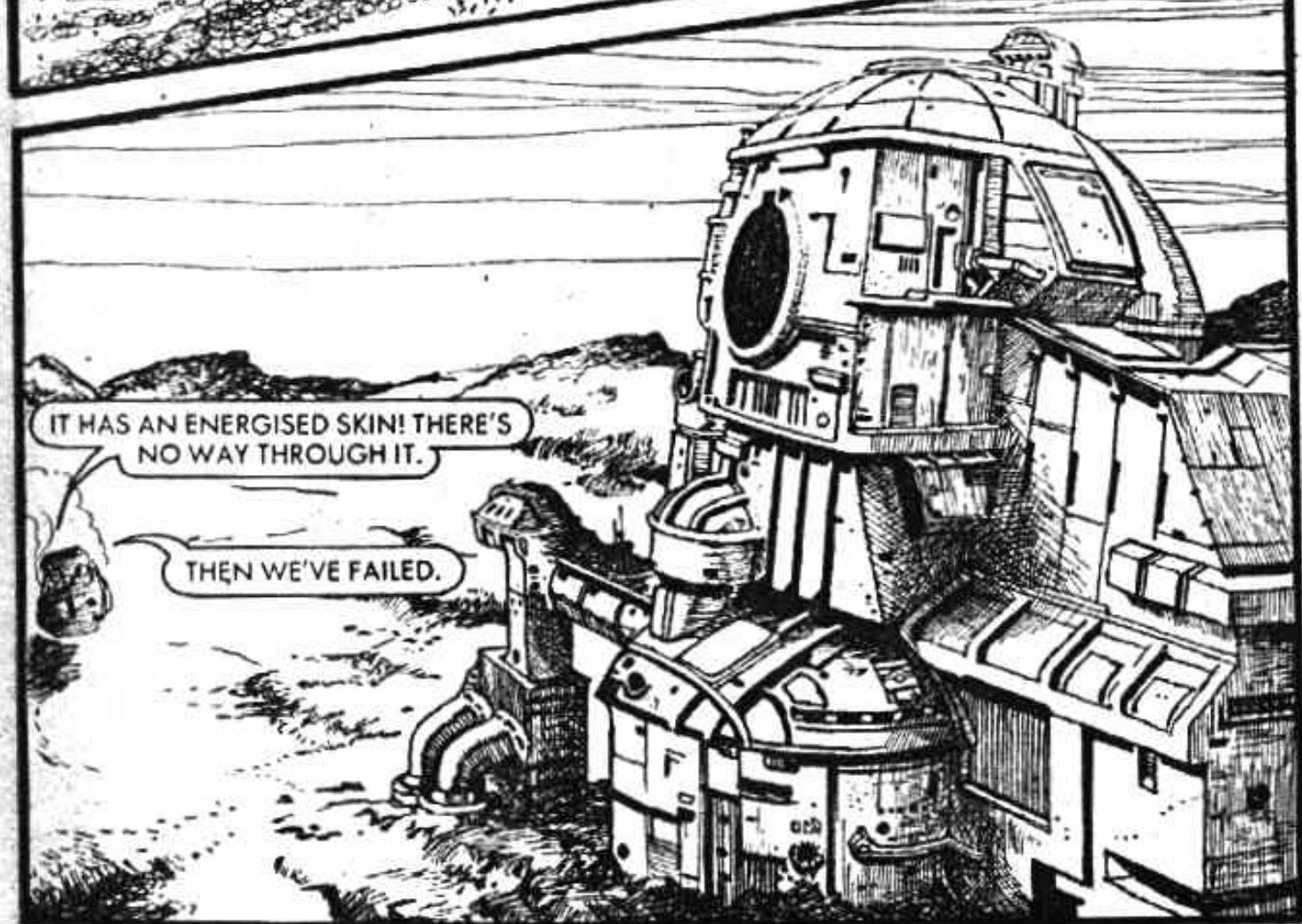
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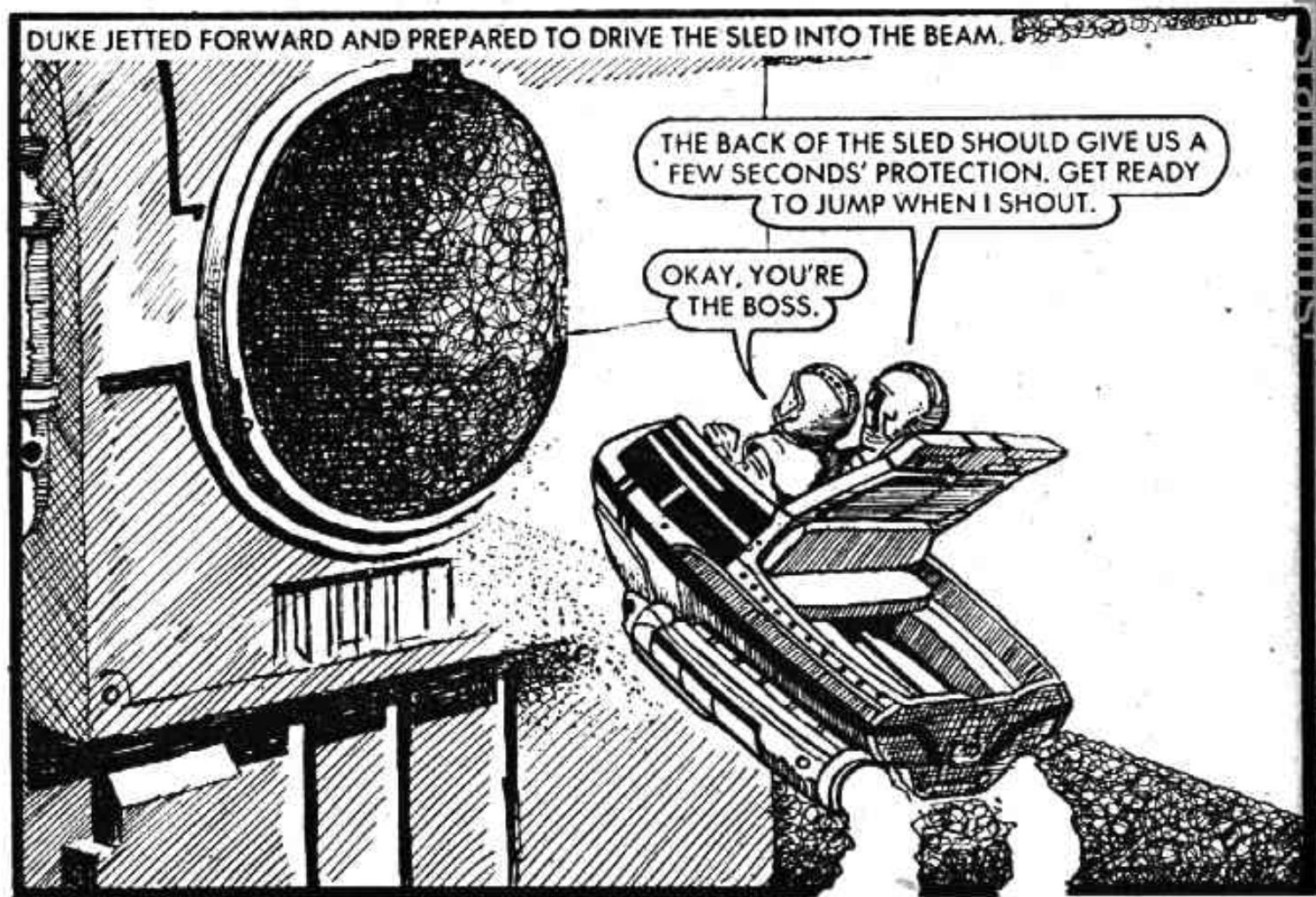
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE.



IT HAS AN ENERGISED SKIN! THERE'S NO WAY THROUGH IT.

THEN WE'VE FAILED.





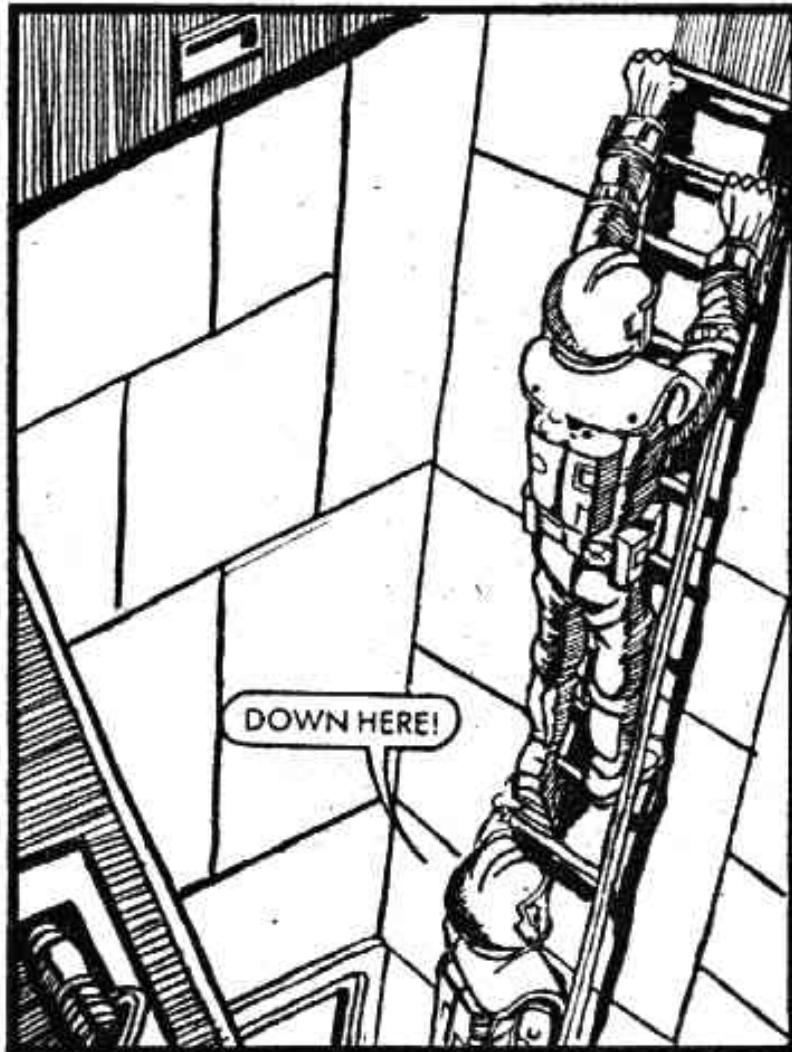
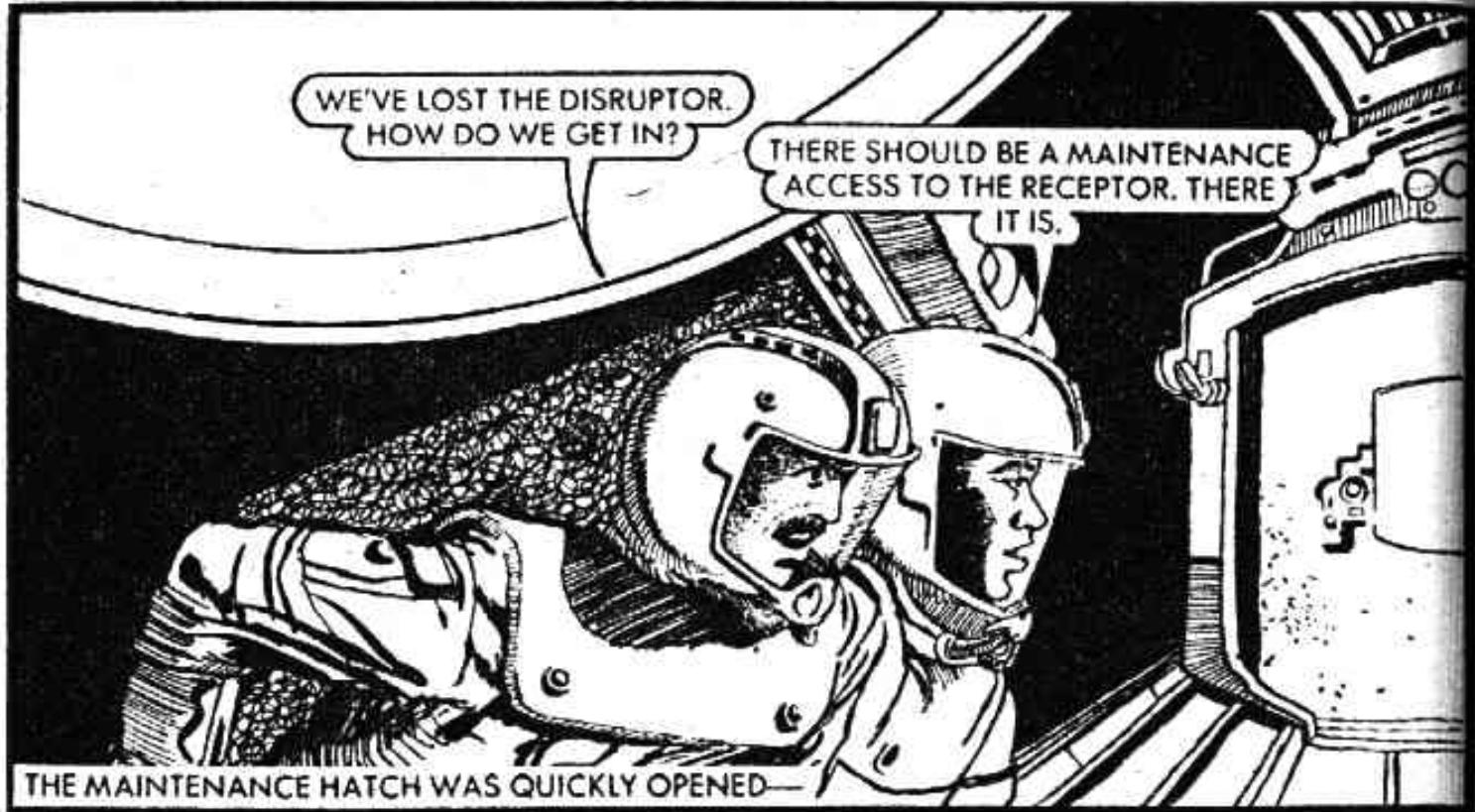
AS THE SLED ENTERED THE POWER BEAM IT INSTANTLY BEGAN TO GLOW WITH HEAT.

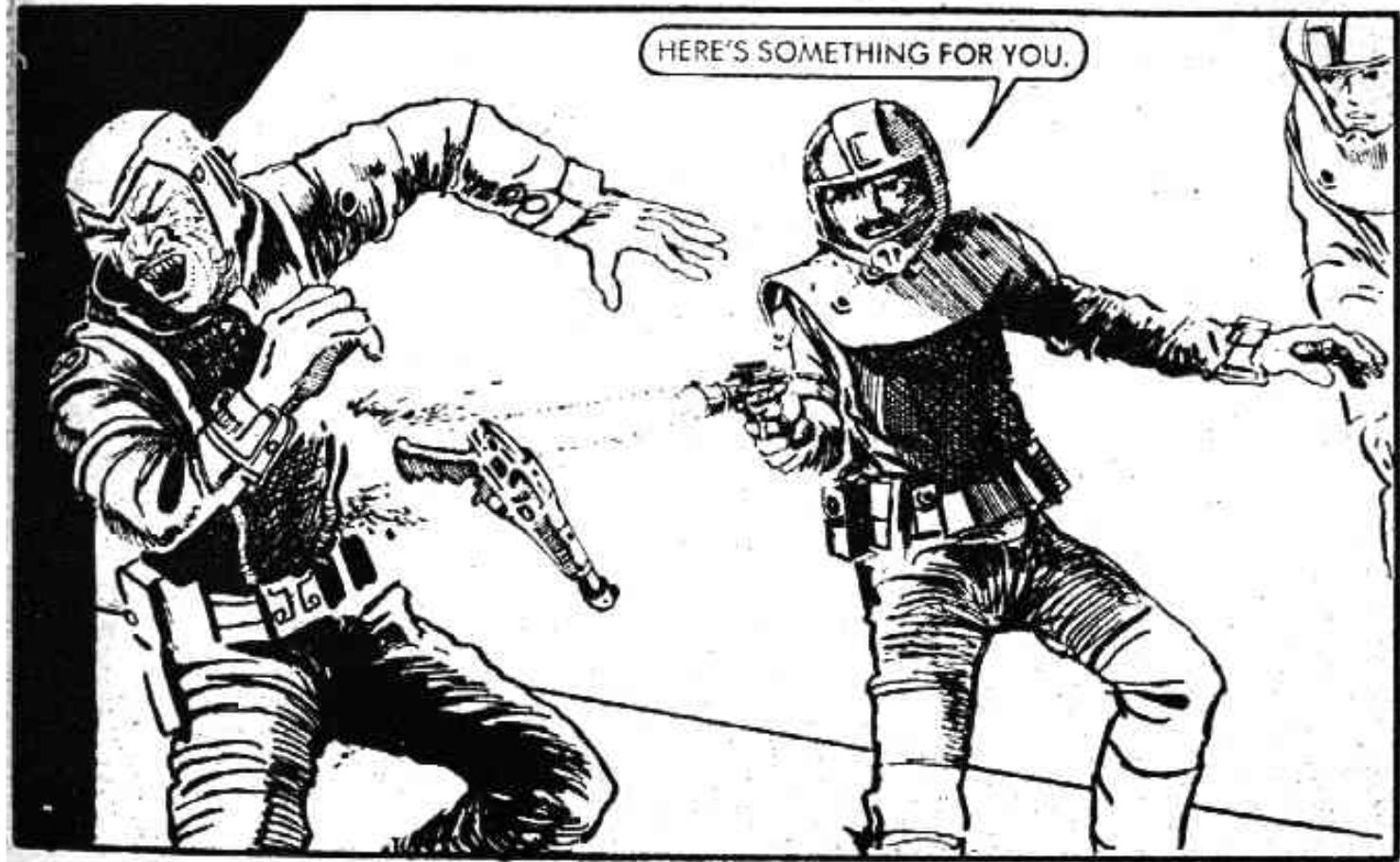
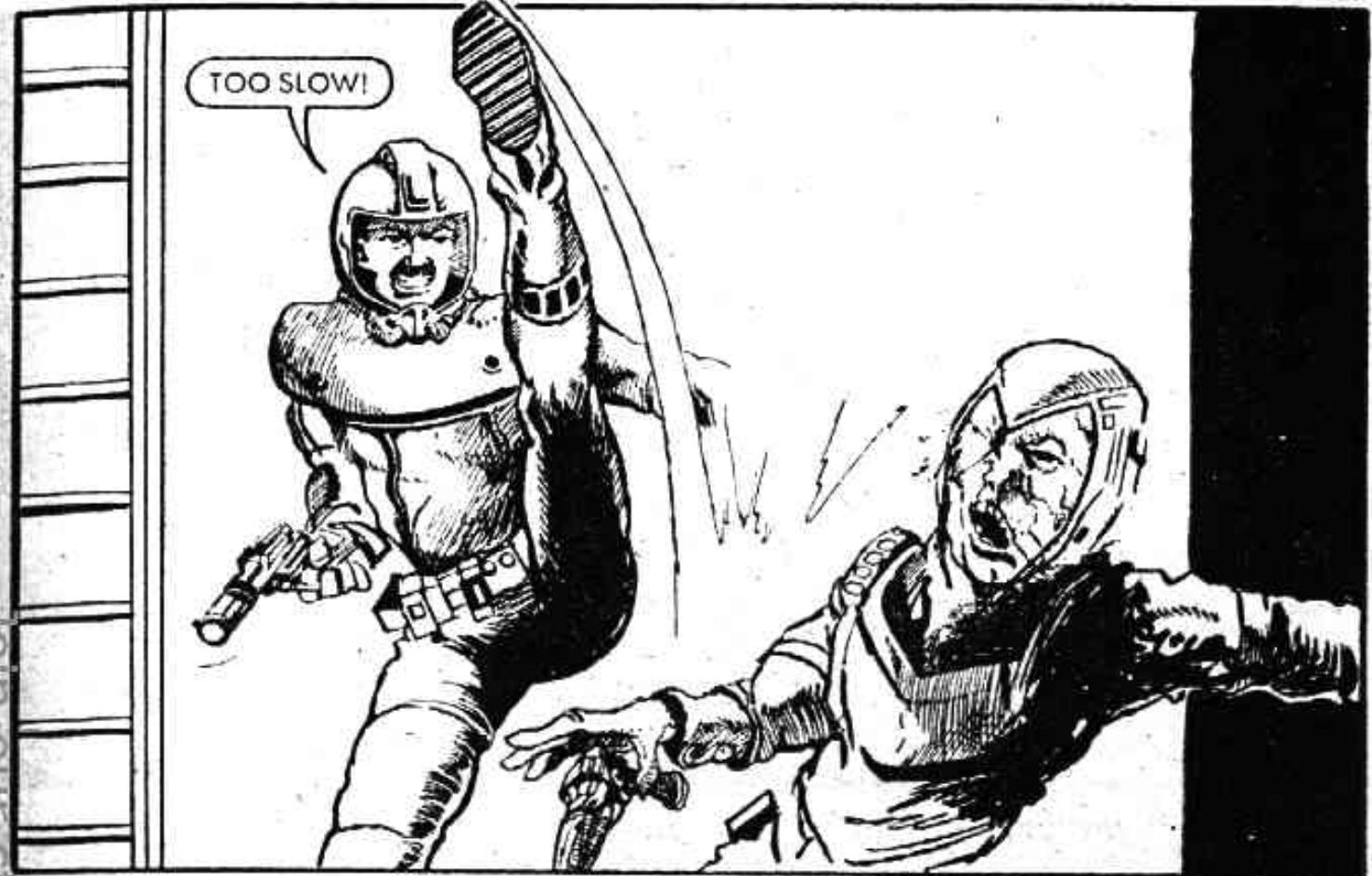
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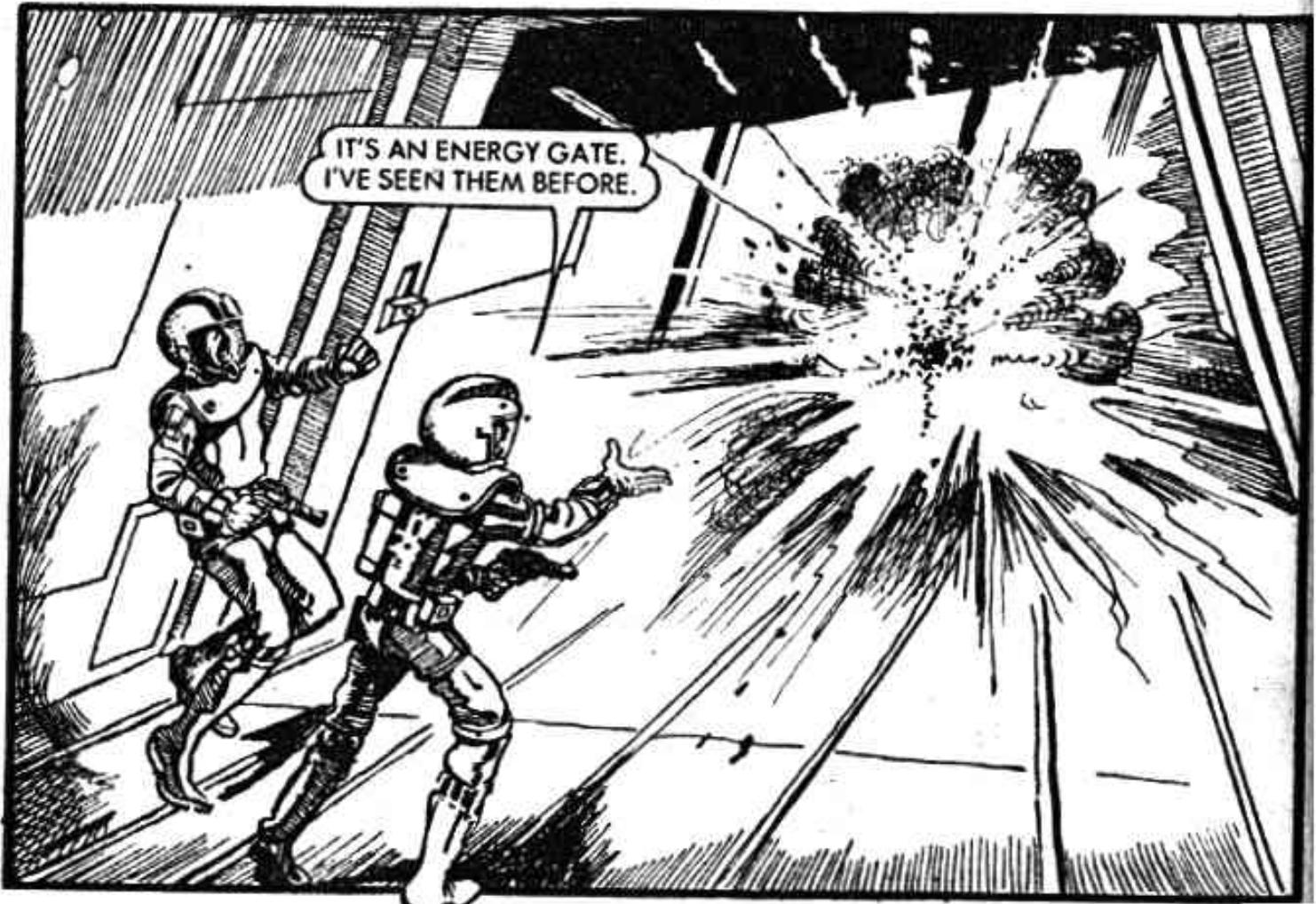
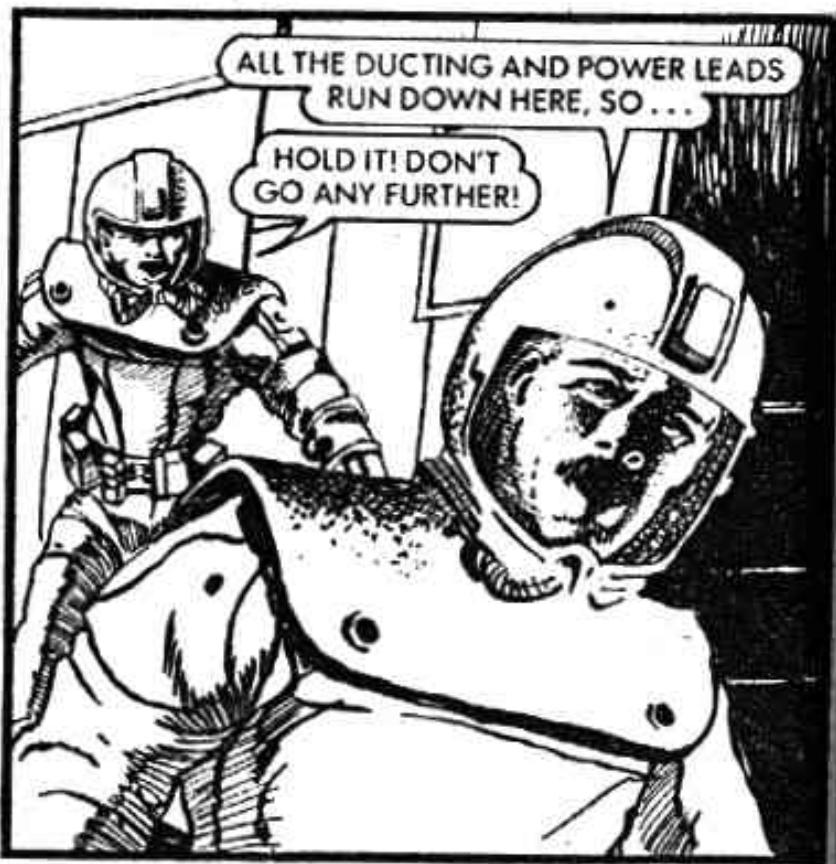
WE'RE INSIDE THE ENERGISED SKIN.
THERE SHOULD BE A CLEAR SPOT
NEAR THE RECEPTOR.

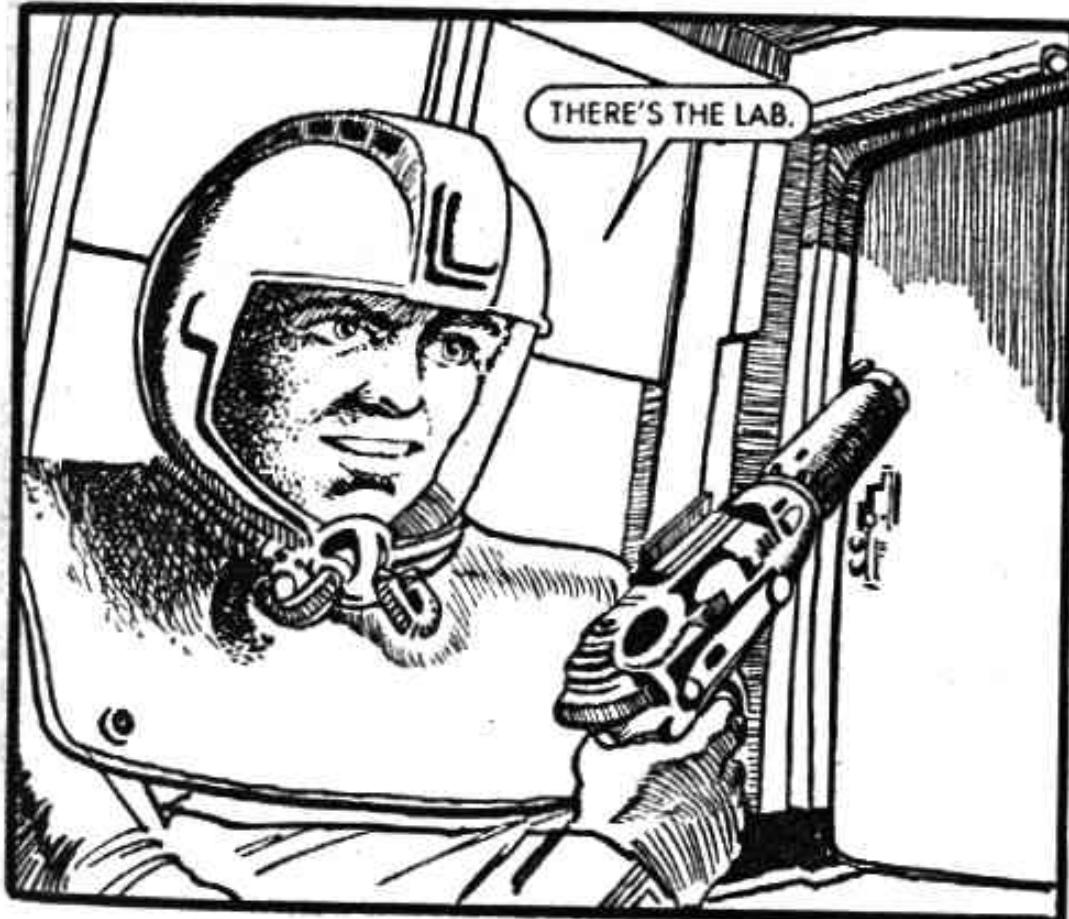
I HOPE SO. I'M
BEGINNING TO COOK.

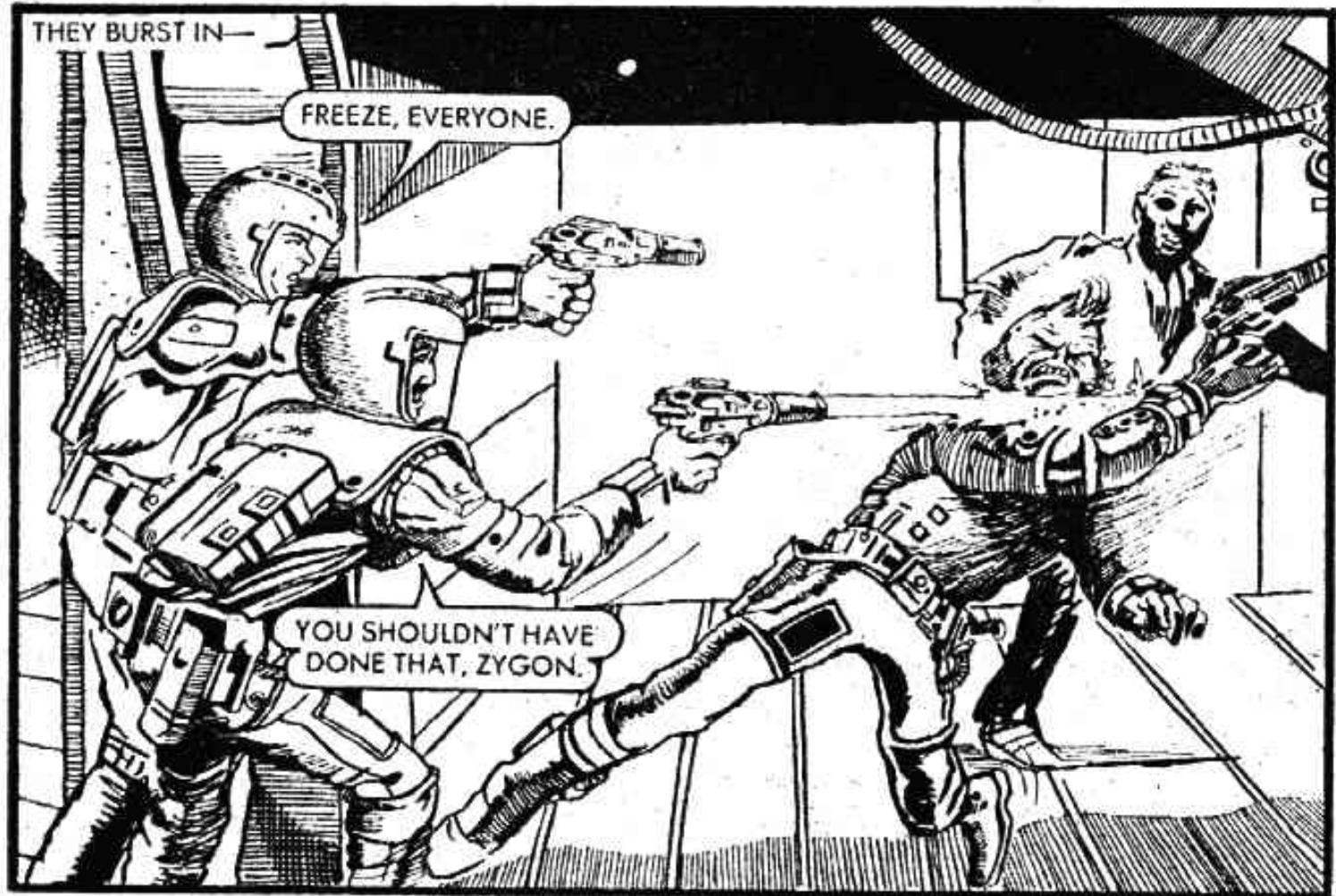
















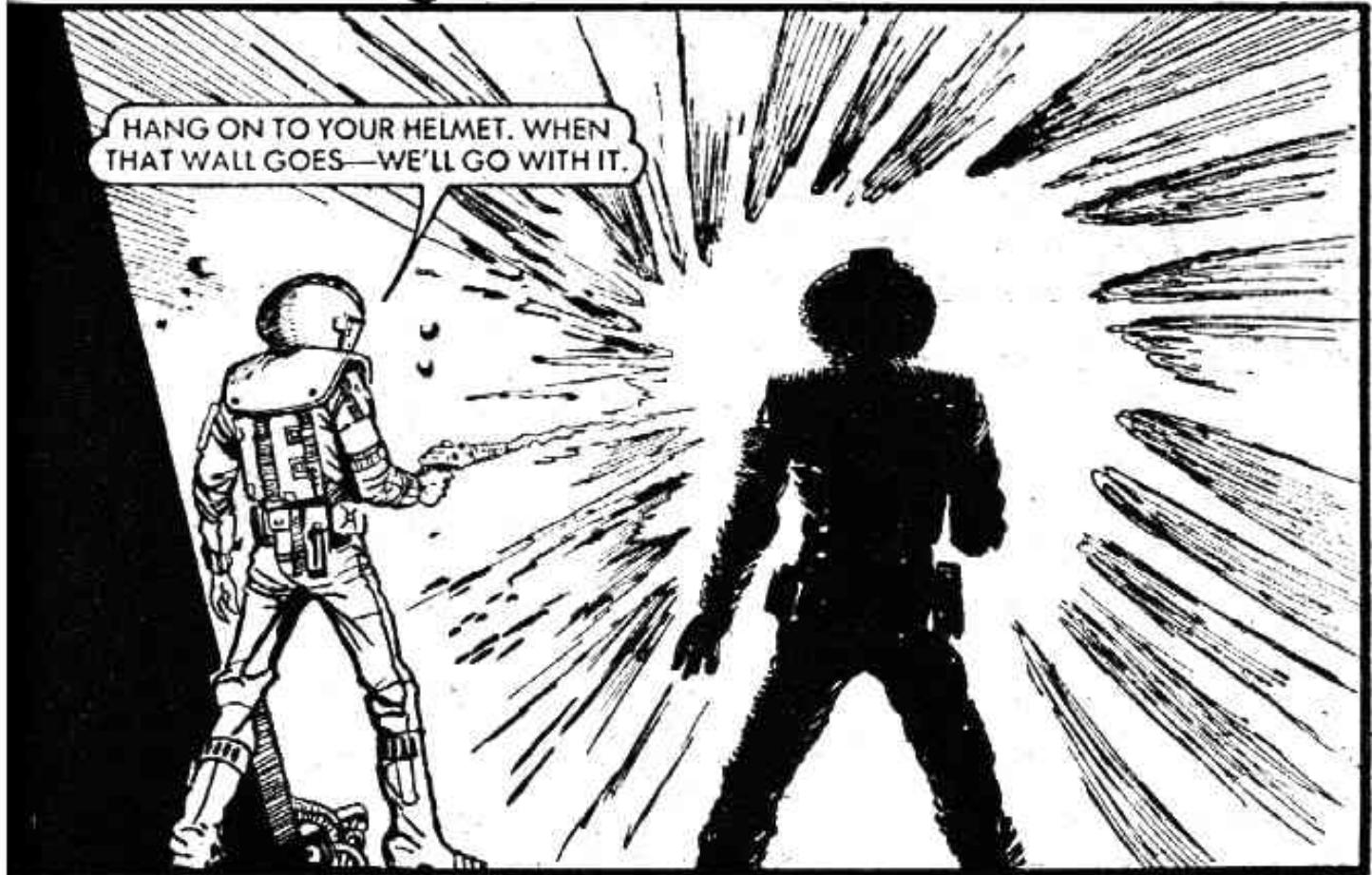
AS THE TRANSPARENT VIEWING PANEL TO THE CULTURE ROOM SMASHED, THE AIR FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF WARNING SIRENS.

WHAT'S ALL THAT FOR?

IT'S THE SOUND OF DEATH, EARTHTMAN. IT MEANS THE KILLER GERMS HAVE ESCAPED AND NOW THE MOON WILL DIE.

THE GRAVITY GENERATORS HAVE SWITCHED OFF! WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE CRUSHED TO SPECKS BY SCARO. YOU HAVE THE CURE TO OUR KILLER GERM, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. OUR LEADERS ALREADY HAVE THE KILLER GERM AND WILL SEED THE GALAXY WITH DEATH.





THE WALL WEAKENED AND COLLAPSED. IN A SECOND STONE AND BODEY WERE BLASTED OUT INTO THE VACUUM OF SPACE.



THAT I WOULDN'T
LIKE TO DO AGAIN.

CONTACT THE FLAGSHIP!



COME AND GET US, COMMANDER. MISSION IS A.O.K. BUT WATCH FOR THE ZYGN SHIPS. THE MOON'S MOVING OUT OF ORBIT AND THEY'LL BE ACTIVE.

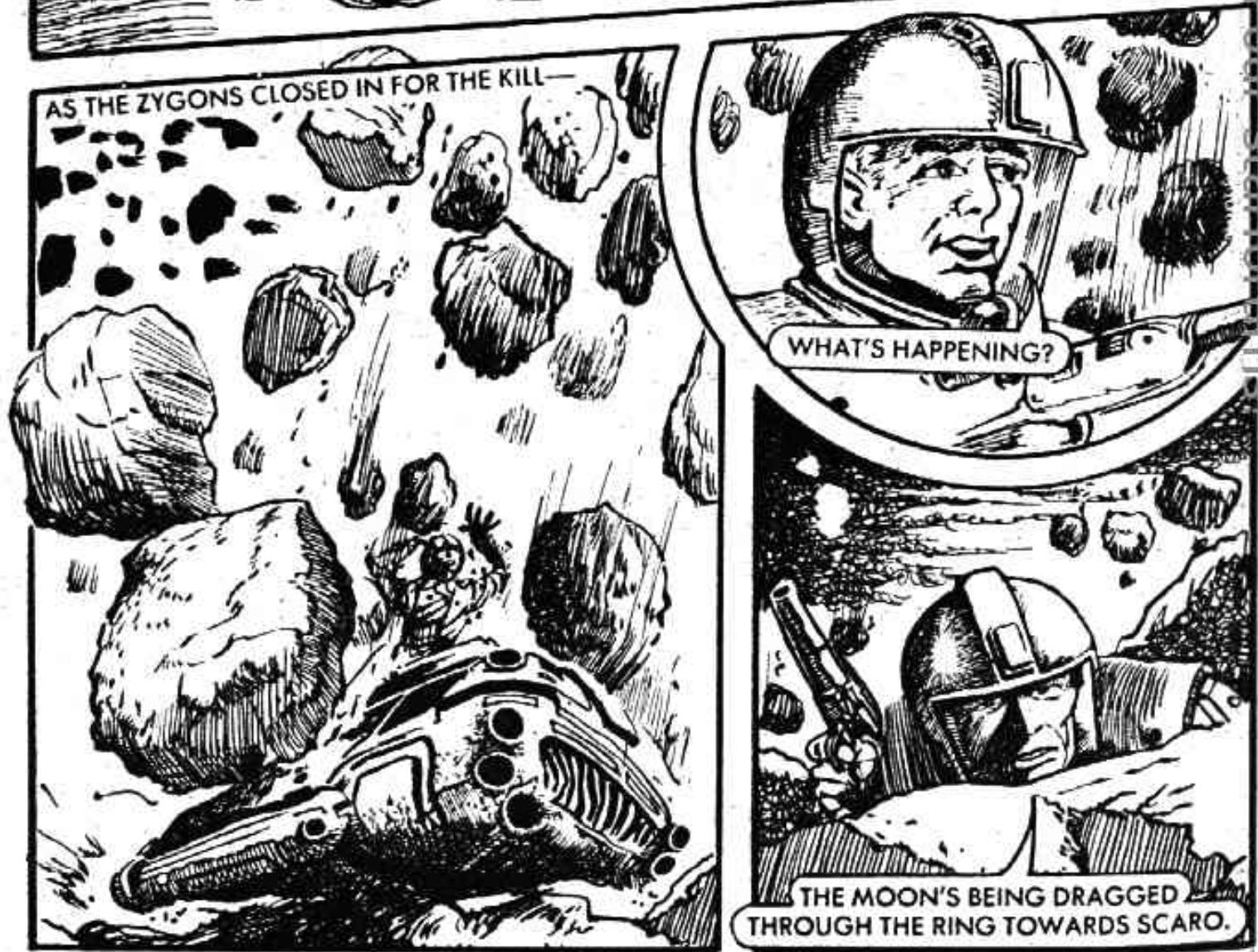
WILL DO!

WE'LL BE WITH YOU SOON. JUST
KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE 'TIL WE GET
THERE.

WE'LL DO OUR BEST, SIR!







THE MOON GATHERED SPEED.

THE ROCKS ARE DEALING
WITH THE ZYGONS.

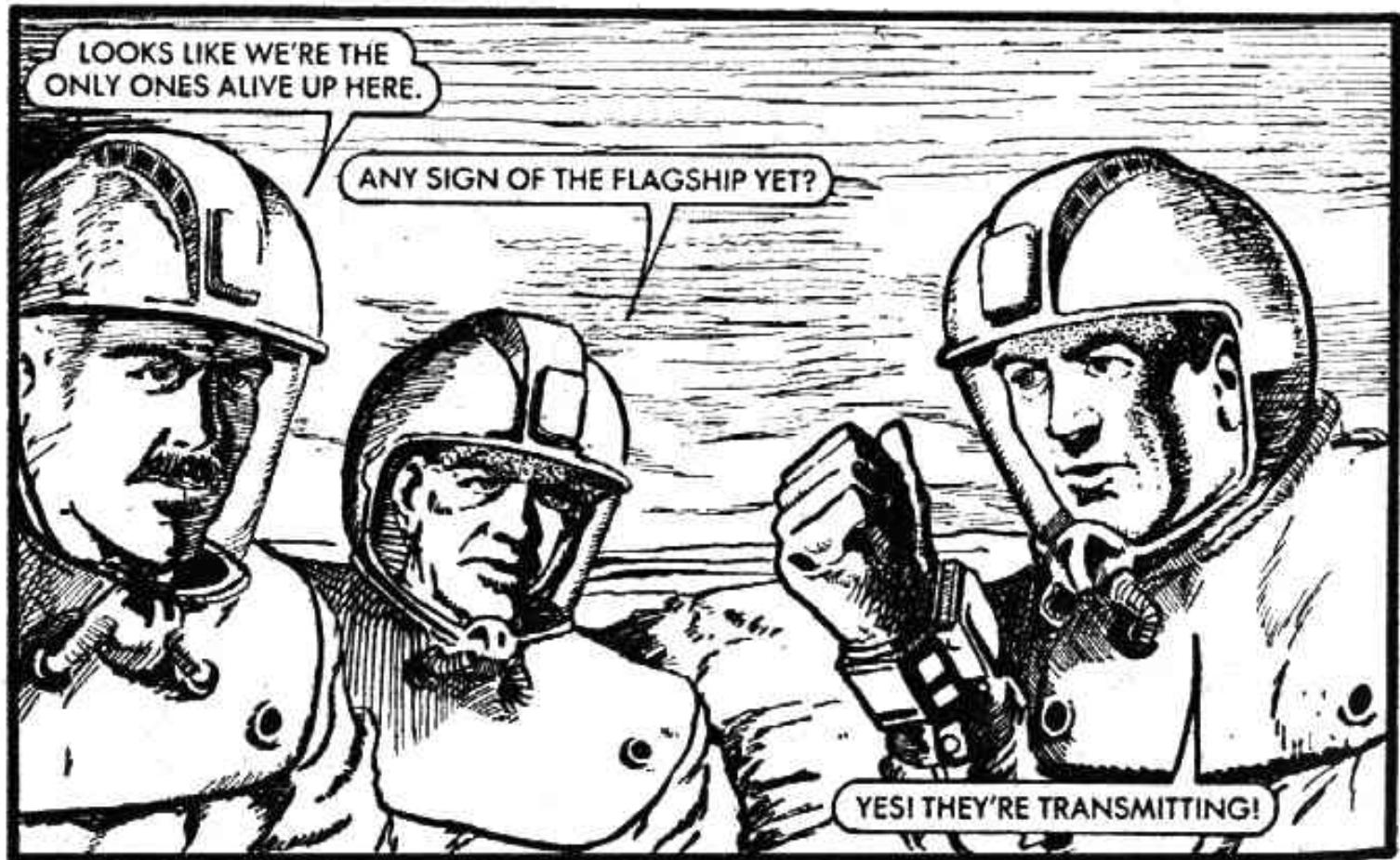
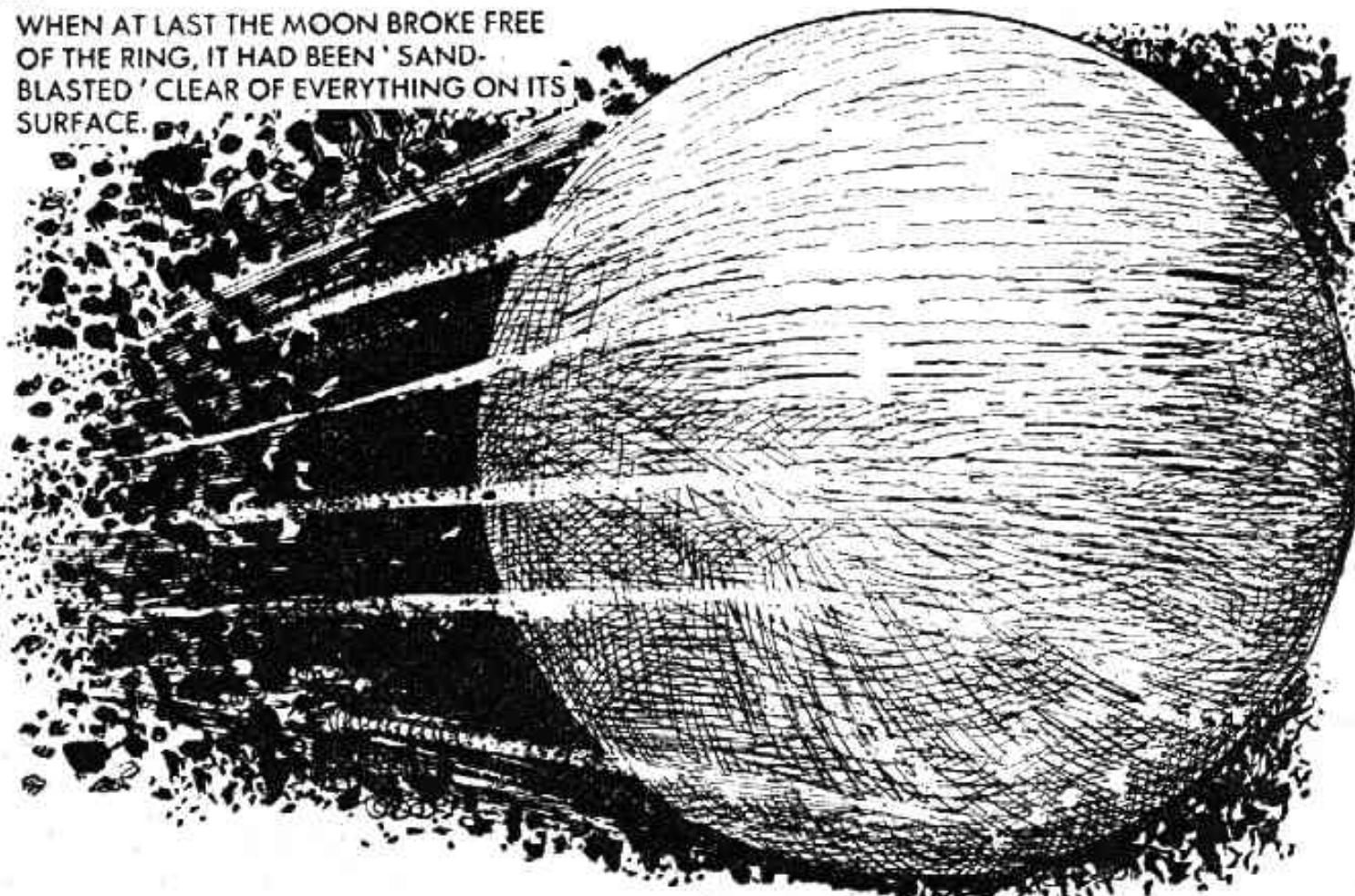




AS THE MOON ACCELERATED THROUGH THE
RING, THE DAMAGE BECAME WORSE.



WHEN AT LAST THE MOON BROKE FREE
OF THE RING, IT HAD BEEN 'SAND-
BLASTED' CLEAR OF EVERYTHING ON ITS
SURFACE.



WE'RE COMING TO GET YOU. WE'RE
ENGAGING WITH THE ENEMY SHIPS AS OF NOW.

AS THE ZYON SHIPS
FOLLOWED THE PATH OF
THE MOON THROUGH THE
RING, THE EARTH FLAGSHIP
RACED IN AFTER THEM.

THEY CAN'T SEE US YET. WE'RE
GOING IN AFTER THEM WHILE
THEY'VE NO ROOM FOR
MANOEUVRE.



ALL CANNON-FIRE.

WE MISSED HIM, BUT
HE DIDN'T MISS THE ROCKS.

THE FLAGSHIP BLASTED THE FOURTH SHIP AND THEN SHUDDERED VIOLENTLY AS ITS NUMBER ONE ENGINE RECEIVED A DIRECT HIT.



FIFTY PER CENT LOSS OF POWER, SIR.



THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH. THEY'RE NOT FOLLOWING.

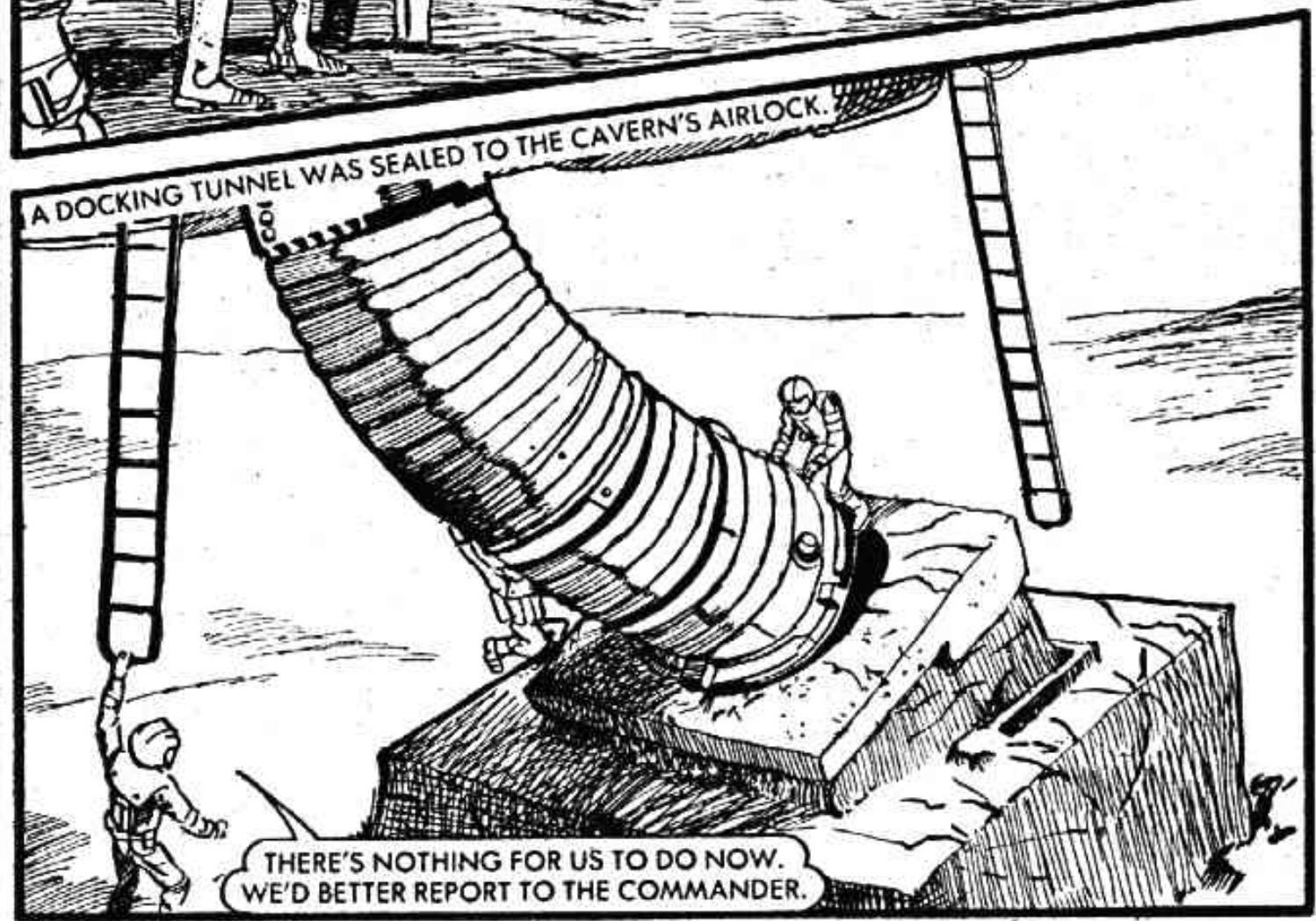
BREAK FOR THE MOON, NAVIGATOR—
AND LET'S LET OUR MEN OUT.



ZYGONS ARE OBEDIENT. THEIR ORDERS ARE TO LET THE MOON DESTRUCT INTO THE PLANET TO PREVENT THE RELEASE OF KILLER BUGS.



A DOCKING TUNNEL WAS SEALED TO THE CAVERN'S AIRLOCK.



THERE'S NOTHING FOR US TO DO NOW.
WE'D BETTER REPORT TO THE COMMANDER.

AS THE AIRLOCK OPENED THE HOSTAGES BEGAN TO STREAM ON BOARD THE FLAGSHIP.



IT'S TAKING TOO LONG. THE MOON'S PICKING UP SPEED AND THE PULL OF GRAVITY IS INCREASING.



AT LAST THE LOADING OF THE HOSTAGES WAS COMPLETED.

THE VULTURE'S ARE WAITING
FOR US UP THERE, SIR.

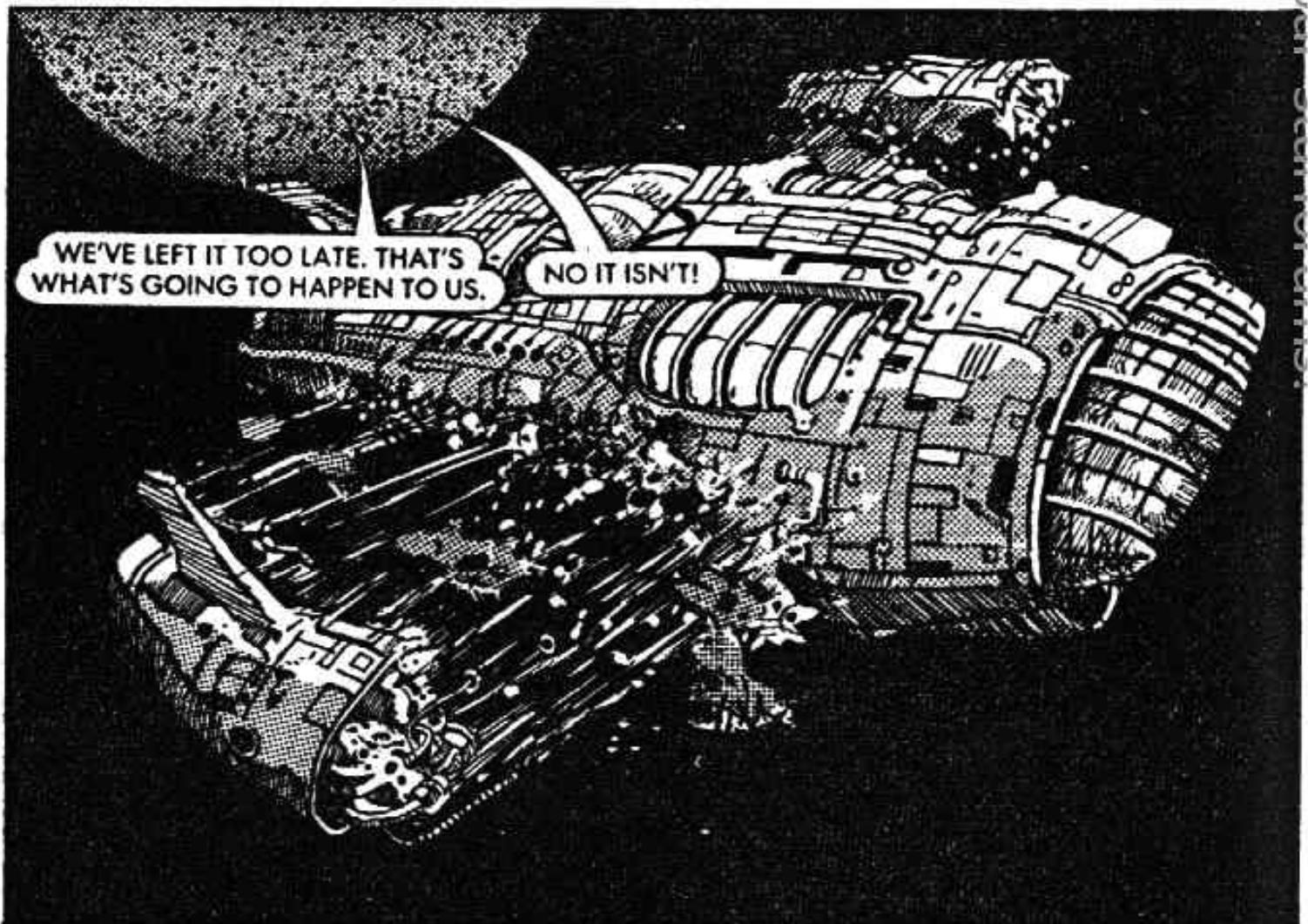
THE MOMENT WE LEAVE THEY'LL BLAST
US AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN
DO TO STOP THEM.

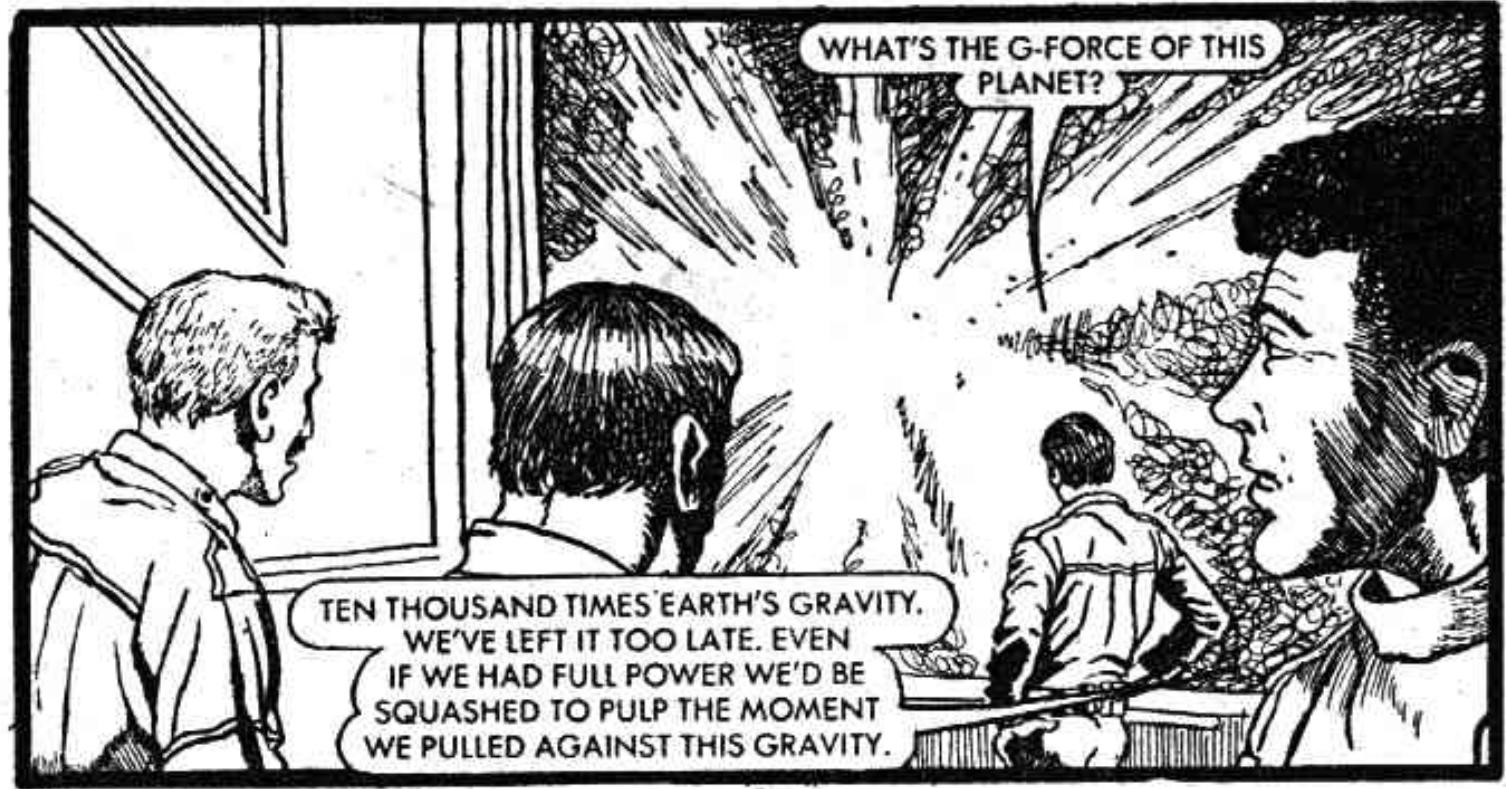
I THINK WE'LL PLAY A GAME OF CHICKEN
WITH THEM. THEY'LL HAVE TO TURN BACK
SOMETIME OR THE GRAVITY WILL PULL
THEM DOWN AS WELL. WE'LL SIT HERE.

GRIMLY THEY WAITED AS THE MOON PLUNGED EVER NEARER TO THE PLANET.

THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH.

THEY'RE MAKING A
BREAK FOR IT.





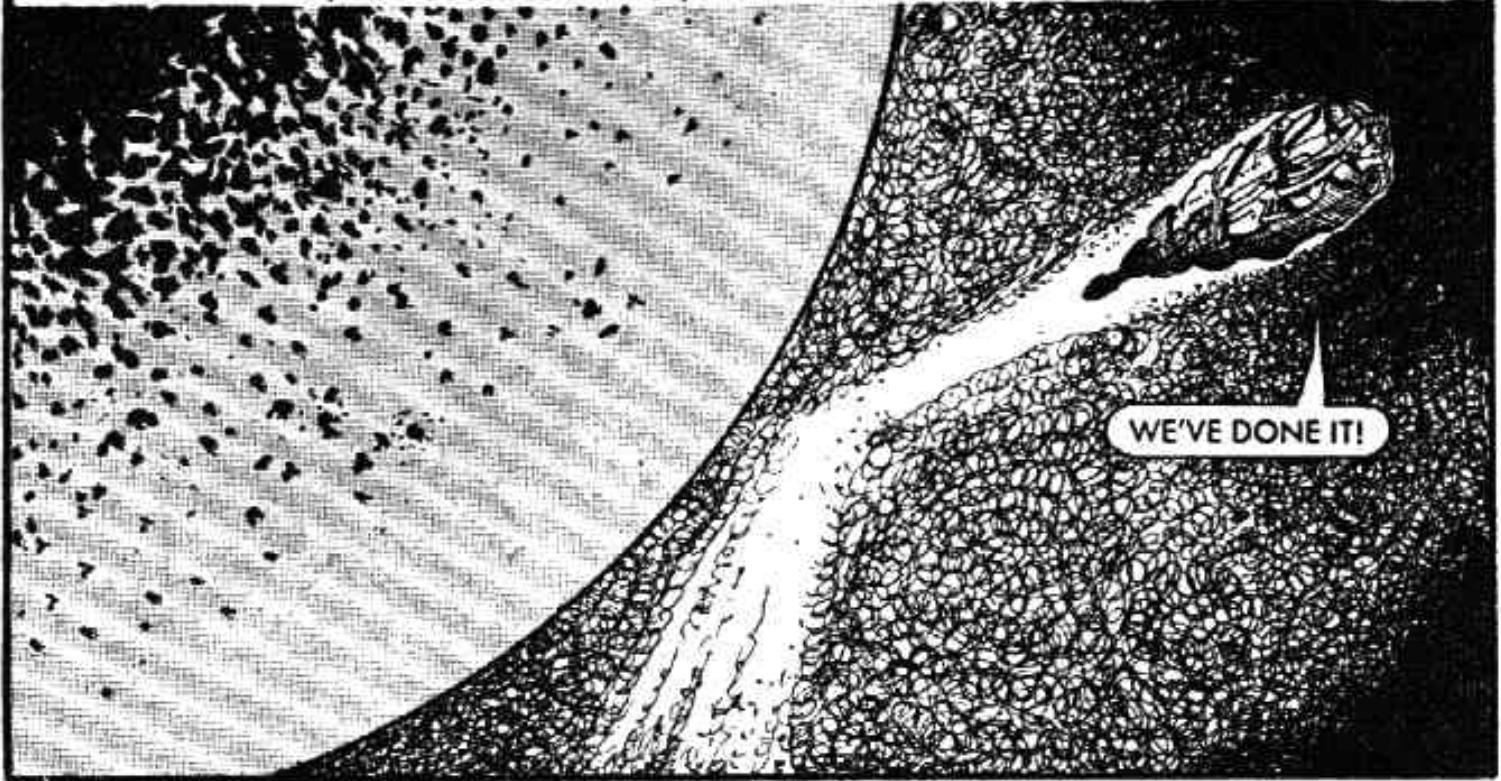
THE SHIP LIFTED OFF AND BLASTED TOWARDS THE PLANET AT ITS TOP SPEED.

GET READY TO TURN SHIP. WE'RE GOING TO USE THE PULL OF THE PLANET TO INCREASE OUR SPEED.

AT THIS SPEED THAT ATMOSPHERE WILL BE LIKE HITTING ROCK.

EVERYONE HOLD ON TIGHT.

THERE WAS A GREAT, CONCUSSING IMPACT, BUT THE CRAFT BOUNCED OUT TO SAFETY OF SPACE.

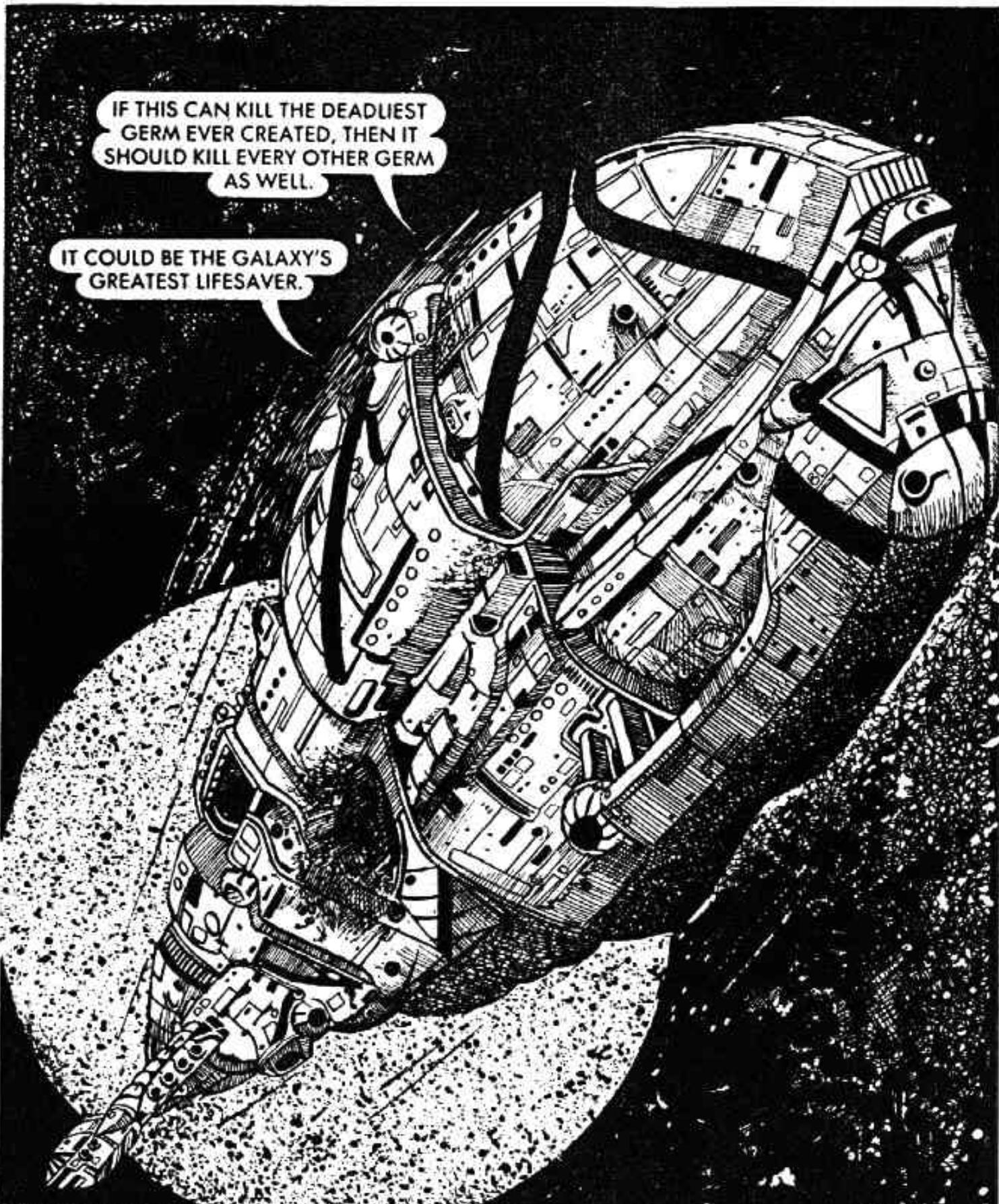


WE'VE DONE IT!



NOW, GENTLEMEN, I THINK WE'LL HEAD FOR HOME. THE SOONER WE CAN GET THIS CONTROL GERM MASS PRODUCED THE BETTER IT WILL BE.

THE ZYGONS MIGHT JUST HAVE DONE THE GALAXY AN IMMENSE GOOD SERVICE.



IF THIS CAN KILL THE DEADLIEST
GERM EVER CREATED, THEN IT
SHOULD KILL EVERY OTHER GERM
AS WELL.

IT COULD BE THE GALAXY'S
GREATEST LIFESAVER.

THE SPECIAL SQUAD BLASTED FOR HOME . . . AND THE NEXT ASSIGNMENT.

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DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS MONTH'S

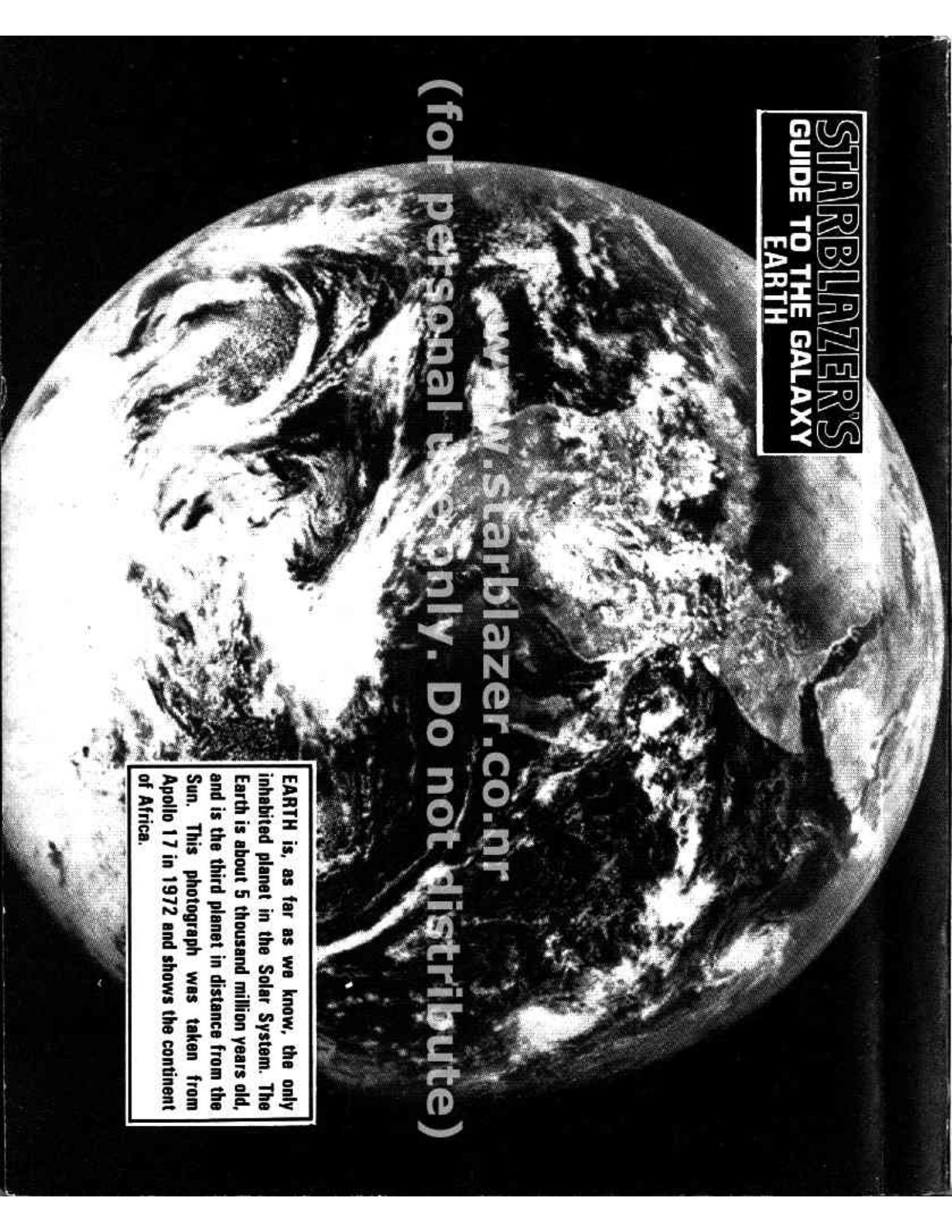
• OTHER

STARBLAZER
SPACE ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 71

It was a killing machine that no-one could stop...

JAWS OF DEATH

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S



STARBLAZER'S
GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
EARTH

(for personal use only. Do not distribute)

EARTH is, as far as we know, the only inhabited planet in the Solar System. The Earth is about 5 thousand million years old, and is the third planet in distance from the Sun. This photograph was taken from Apollo 17 in 1972 and shows the continent of Africa.